pargatacy

Britton

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FOREWORD

'Purgatory' is the sequel to the book 'A Bridge Too Far' which was first published on the free e-books site on October 16, 2012. 'A Bridge Too Far' has been downloaded 3,200 times to-date.

'Purgatory' covers the years from 2012, when I was 62 years of age, until 2017 when I turned 67.

'A Bridge Too Far' ended summarising forty odd years of my life and business thus:

'I salute all of those who have risked much to forge new entities capable of creating new employment opportunities for others. It is a lonely and often discouraging



furrow to plough but South Africa's horrific forty plus per cent unemployment rate demands that many more of these adventurous and courageous entrepreneurs put up their hands.

If any young person reading this is unsure about his or her future direction in life, may I suggest accounting as a professional

career? The reward is good, you get to go to some unique places and meet some interesting people and there is very definitely never a dull moment.

In three years' time my disability benefit ceases and I will be required once more to work. The limping old man with the lederhosen and the beady eye will then be starting a new career.

I wonder what it will be.

PURGATORY DEFINED

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In Roman Catholic theology, **Purgatory** (Latin: *Purgatorium*, via Anglo-Norman and Old French) **is an intermediate state after physical death** in which some of those ultimately destined for heaven must first undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven, holding that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come. And that entrance into Heaven requires the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to [venial] sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, for which indulgences may be given which remove either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin, such as an unhealthy attachment to sin.

Only those who die in the state of grace but have not yet fulfilled the temporal punishment due to their sin can be in Purgatory, and therefore no one in Purgatory will remain forever in that state nor go to hell

The Earthly Paradise
Terrace 7: The Lustful
Terrace 6: The Gluttonous
Terrace 5: The Covetous
Terrace 4. The Slothful
Terrace 3; The Wrathful
Terrace 2: The Envious
Terrace 1: The Proud
Ante-Purgatory: The Late Repentant
Ante-Purgatory: The Excommunicate

The notion of Purgatory is associated particularly with the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church (in the Eastern sui juris churches or rites it is a doctrine, though it is not often called Purgatory but the final purification or the final theosis.

Anglicans of the Anglo-Catholic tradition generally also hold to the belief. Eastern Orthodox Churches believe in the possibility of a change of situation for the souls of the dead through the prayers of the living and the offering of the Divine Liturgy, and many Orthodox, especially among ascetics, hope and pray for a general apocatastasis.

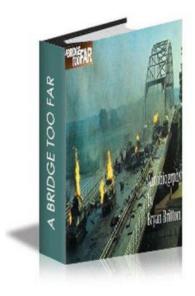
Judaism also believes in the possibility of after-death purification and may even use the word purgatory to present its understanding of the meaning of Gehenna. However, the concept of soul purification may be explicitly denied in these other faith traditions.

The word **Purgatory** has come to refer also to a wide range of historical and modern conceptions of postmortem suffering short of everlasting damnation, and is used, in a non-specific sense, to mean any place or condition of suffering or torment, especially one that is temporary.

I wonder if this latter wider definition can ever be extended to a place or condition of suffering **prior to death.**

TRAUMA IN 2012

The extract below from 'A Bridge Too Far' was published on the free e-books site on October 16, 2012. The book has been downloaded 3,200 times since publication.



'Late April 2004, whilst employed by Deloitte & Touch subsidiary Commercial & Industrial Computer Services, my schedule entailed attending an important meeting called by the councillors at the Ilembe District Municipality on the North Coast of Natal, then travelling south by car all the way down that Coast and inland to the municipality at Kokstad. After a number of meetings there, in a stay over of three days, I travelled North East across the Little Drakensburg Mountains to the municipality at Howick then motored back on the N3 Highway to Johannesburg.

The following day on the way to work with Diane in the car, I experienced a sharp pain in my right temple which caused me to swerve off the road and stall the vehicle. I would later find out through medical experts that I had

suffered a Transient Ischemic Attack.

I was examined on April 17 by a well-known neurologist, Dr van Heerden, who was not too concerned by the incident and never once considered that I had suffered a



Transient Ischemic Attack. He did however order a CT scan to be carried out on May 6, 2004. On examining the scans Dr van Heerden gave me a clean bill of health despite the radiologist not agreeing with him. On May 10 the good physician happily departed for his annual ski trip to the Swiss Alpine region.

On the Sunday morning of May 30, 2004, while serving coffee to Diane in bed, I suffered a massive internal cerebral haemorrhage.

On that day I was treated by paramedics at home and stabilised before being taken by ambulance to the Intensive Care Unit at the Olivedale Clinic in Johannesburg North. On admission I was diagnosed as having had

an intra-cerebral haemorrhage with complications of Type 11 Diabetes, Hypertension and Hyperlipidaemia. Clinical evaluation was Left Hemiparesis, Mild Expressive Aphasia and Full Continence.

The wrinkled grey haired fellow with lederhosen had just cooked his goose'.



My current state of ill health and immobility thirteen years later are a direct consequence of the degenerating effects of the stroke and poor management of diabetes.

The haemorrhage had occurred on the right-hand side of my brain. Strokes usually affect only one side of the brain. Movement and sensation for one side of the body is controlled by the opposite side of the brain.

The left-hand side of my body was thus adversely affected.

STROKE TRAUMA

The right side of the brain controls the ability to pay attention, recognize things you see, hear or touch, and be aware of your own body.

In most people, the left side of the brain controls the ability to speak and understand language.

A haemorrhage in the right side of the brain usually causes the following problems:

Anomia

You may not recognize faces or pictures of familiar people or objects.

Attention span

You may be unable to focus attention on a conversation or tasks for long periods of time.

Denial

You may deny that you had a stroke. Some people even deny that their paralyzed arm or leg belongs to them.

They look at the paralyzed arm or leg and believe it belongs to someone else.

Neglect

You may ignore the left side of your body or your environment. This means you may not turn to look toward your left side or you may not recognize things that are on your left.

Perseveration



You may have difficulty following instructions or answering many questions asked one right after the other. You may repeat answers or movement even though a new instruction was given or a new question asked.

Visual and spatial problems

You may have problems judging distance, size, position and rate of movement and how parts relate to a whole.

Source: Allina Patient Education, Understanding Stroke: Information about Stroke and Recovery, fourth edition, ISBN 1-931876-13-4.

What is not indicated in the above article is that when the carotid artery is severed from the brain after a stroke, the blood is pumped unfettered into the brain cavity. As a result blood does not reach the nerve endings until the blood supply is continued to the brain.

The length of time between the rupture and repair of this artery is critical to the amount of damage inflicted on the nerve endings. Once the nerve endings die through lack of blood, they cannot be repaired nor regrow. The damage results in perpetual 'pins and needles' in the affected areas of the body.

Human beings distinguished themselves as bipeds through the evolution of four senses which allowed them the eventually stand upright.

- 1. The nerve endings in their feet register minor shifts in weight and electronically relay these changes to the brain. The brain then registers the incoming data and readjusts the balance of the human frame.
- 2. Liquid in the ears needs to be held in equilibrium. Once the liquid is out of kilter, messages are sent to the brain to restore equilibrium to the whole body.
- 3. The arms also have a role in maintaining the human body in a level and upright position. Again, nerve endings in the hands relay messages to the brain for that vital organ to make the necessary adjustment to balance.
- 4. The eyes too play a role in maintaining balance and remaining upright. Visual messages are transmitted to the brain for the required adjustment to equilibrium.

Apologies for the pigeon medical explanation above but it did originally come from some or other physician and has been mangled by this dumb accountant.

The upshot, however, is that the irreparable damage to the nerve endings in a right sided stroke causes permanent balance and tactile problems in the left-hand side of the body.

EMOTIONAL LABILITY

Another peculiar condition resulting from a stroke is emotional lability.

What is emotional lability?

Emotional lability refers to rapid, often exaggerated changes in mood, where strong emotions or feelings (uncontrollable laughing or crying, or heightened irritability or temper) occur. These very strong emotions are sometimes expressed in a way that is not related to the person's emotional state.

What causes emotional lability?

Emotional lability occurs because of damage to parts of the brain that control:

- Awareness of emotions (ours and others)
- Ability to control how emotions are expressed. In other words the ability to inhibit or stop emotions from bursting forth irrationally.

When a person is emotionally labile emotions can be out of proportion to the situation or environment the person is in. For example, a person may cry, even when they are not unhappy – they may cry just in response to strong emotions or feelings, or it may happen "out of the blue" without warning.

A person may have little control over the expression of these strong emotions, and they may not be connected to any specific event or person.

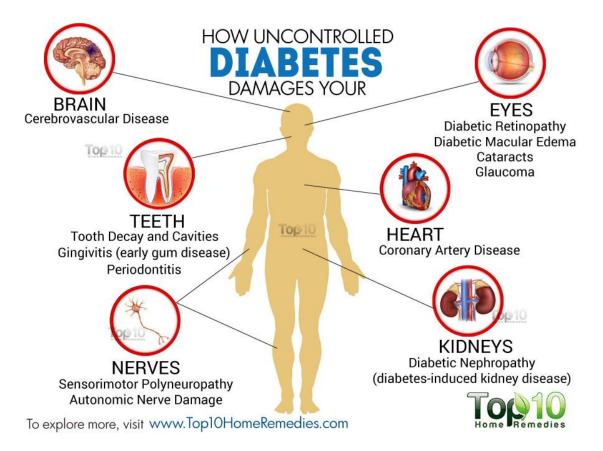
Following brain injury an individual may also lose emotional awareness and sensitivity to their own and other's emotions, and therefore their capacity to control their emotional behaviour may also be reduced. They may overreact to people or events around them – conversations about particular topics, sad or funny movies or stories. Weaker emotional control and lower frustration tolerance, particularly with fatigue and stress can also result in more extreme changes in emotional responses.

This is why I cannot watch Little House on the Prairie.

DIABETES

As regards the diagnosed diabetes a different set of challenges arose. The excess blood sugar in diabetes can wreak havoc on blood vessels all over the body and cause complications. It can severely damage the eyes, kidneys, nerves, and other body parts; cause sexual problems; and double the risk of heart attack and stroke. Some people with type 2 diabetes need insulin, but most don't. Hyperglycemia (high blood sugar) may be the hallmark of diabetes, but does not cause most of the morbidity (the harm of the disease). Blood glucose is fairly easily controlled by medication, but this does not prevent the long-term complications. Despite blood glucose control, damage occurs to virtually every organ system.

It would be difficult to find a single organ system not affected by diabetes. These complications are generally classified as either microvascular (small blood vessels) or macrovascular (large blood vessels).



Certain organs, such as the eyes, kidneys and nerves are predominantly perfused by small blood vessels. Chronic damage to these small blood vessels causes failure of these organs. Damage to larger blood vessels results in narrowing called atherosclerotic plaque. When this plaque ruptures, it triggers an inflammatory reaction and blood clots that cause heart attacks and strokes. When blood flow is impaired to the legs, it may cause gangrene due to reduced circulation.

There are other complications do not fall neatly into this simple categorization. A variety of diabetic complications are not obviously caused by injured blood vessels. These would include skin conditions, fatty liver disease, infections, polycystic ovarian syndromes, Alzheimer's disease and cancer.

To continue from 'a Bridge Too Far....

'Based on the aforementioned medical diagnosis I was ordered to give up smoking, undergo intense rehabilitation, subscribe to a very strict diet, refrain from alcohol, consume prescribed chronic medication daily and work for only two hours a day.

Under these conditions I was given a fifty percent chance of survival by the physicians.

My first concern was for Diane. Her family support base was back in KwaZulu Natal and, if I did not make it through this crisis, she would be left alone in Gauteng without meaningful financial support. So, in a whirl of activity, we got married in hospital. This ensured that if I died, Diane, as my dependent, would receive the proceeds of an insurance policy taken out on my life by Deloittes when I had joined the company. The hospital was amazing. Besides paying for the event, they made many of the last minute and rushed arrangements including inviting patients of the hospital as guests to the ceremony.

Marry they did but die he did not.



After ten days I was considered by Specialist Physicians de la Cour and Teuwen to be stable enough to be moved from High Care at Olivedale to the Netcare Rehabilitation Clinic in Aukland Park. There I underwent thirteen days of intensive rehabilitation including: dietary and cholesterol advice, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and also neuro psychology treatment. Against all advice by attending doctors, psychologists and physicians, the treatment was

terminated by the Fedhealth Medical Aid Scheme on June 23, 2004.

Rehabilitation unassisted at home was totally inadequate and, following a lengthy tussle with Fedhealth, I was allowed again to continue treatment at Netcare Clinic in

Aukland Park. The disrespectful and disgraceful length of time that it took for Fedhealth to agree to further rehabilitation ensured that I would not be recommending their services anytime soon.

In negotiating the additional rehabilitation with Fedhealth, transport became a stumbling block. The cost of an ambulance, upon which Fedhealth insisted, proved to be too exorbitant. You will know that an



ambulance ride today costs just a little less than a seat on the space shuttle. So I independently negotiated a rate from an under-utilised VIP Limousine Service Company. They were happy to offer their idle personnel and vehicles for hire during the day. Thus for the entire duration of my rehabilitation I was ferried to and from the Aukland Park Rehabilitation Facility in a shiny black stretch limousine driven by a

pistol toting ex wrestler in a dark suit, wearing sunglasses and bearing a sinister and menacing demeanour.

Our arrival and departure from the Rehabilitation Clinic was the subject of much speculation by patients and staff alike. It was a complete mystery to them who this persona, guarded by the Mafia and arriving in a black stretch limousine might be. I am embarrassed to admit that I added to the drama by always wearing shades and carrying my kit in a suspicious black suitcase.

Between October and December 2004 I duly underwent further intensive rehabilitation including speech therapy, psychological treatment, physical conditioning, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. In addition, I resumed my daily ten kilometre walking and swimming regime in my own time. All of this intense rehabilitation started to deliver results.

By December 2004, the chart recording my progress under this regime had improved from 15/60 to 45/60. Real progress!

I recommenced work duties again in January 2005, albeit doing only mundane office routines. In the ensuing four months it became obvious that I would sadly be unable to return to my former Account Executive responsibilities. By April 2005 my chart reflected a regression back to 21/60 from 45/60. I was almost as bad as I had been the previous October.

Under these circumstances the managers, doctors and insurers had no other option but to regard me as permanently disabled and I was duly boarded.

It was a lonely existence for a while as Diane was away on trips to far flung municipalities most weeks and I was left kicking my heels at home. Deloittes helped by allowing me to tag along, for example, when Diane trained people at Ilembe on Kwa Zulu's North Coast.

When Diane got retrenched a few months later, there was no longer any compelling

remain reason to in Johannesburg and we therefore made our arrangements move back to Durban and its glorious beach front.....we were headed home again.

A testimonial from Alan Yorke, the Partner at Deloitte & Touche, based then in Pretoria, reads: "Bryan Britton was employed by Deloitte CICS and



was employed as an Account Executive responsible for sale and implementation of the Munsoft Software System developed specifically for Local Government in South Africa. Bryan has also attended training courses hosted by Deloittes on GAMAP and was able to identify some of the more difficult areas of GAMAP that impact on municipalities in South Africa. Bryan is moving back to Durban and may be in a position to assist Deloittes there on municipal accounting assignments.

On May1, 2005 I was placed on full disability pension by the Employee Benefit Division of Sage Life Limited. Sage would later be taken over by the larger Momentum Life Group, who remains my employer to this day.

The conditions of my disability benefit are that I do not leave South Africa and do not earn any other form of income. My medical and psychological prognosis has determined that I should observe a strict cholesterol free diet devised for diabetics, avoid alcohol and read or work no more than two hours a day.

I am required to have a medical examination every three months and then, once a year, attend a Momentum essential review process. This accompanies an annual application to Momentum to continue on the disability benefit for the following year.

If the annual application succeeds, then an increase of no more than five per cent applies for the ensuing year's benefits. I have to ingest a daily dosage of:

Indapamide Ecotrin

Amplodipine Diamicron

Atenolol Glucophage

The effects of the stroke are irreversible and I am left with no feeling in the foot, leg, arm and hand on my left side. This results in impaired balance and rules out speed walking, swimming and strenuous exercise. As a result I am obliged to watch

my diet extremely closely. The effects are also unfortunately degenerative and have necessitated giving up driving. I believe that I could present a danger to other motorists should the stroke reoccur while driving. So I unfortunately had to ditch the fancy wheels. Over time the conditions will worsen. My disposition and faith, however, remain upbeat and unshakable. I am not unhappy with the cards that the Lord has dealt me this time. For many years in the past I have been



dealt hands with which I have been able to stay productively at the gaming table of life. And I have won more than a few hands over time. For this reason I have no real complaints and have no regrets. In fact, I have been blessed in my life with a still active mother, a brother whom I love, two wonderful marriage partners, three

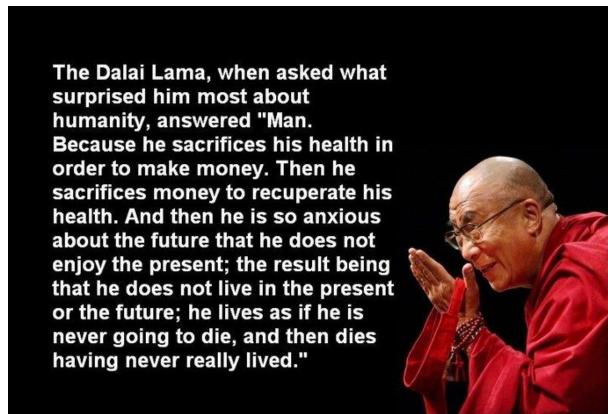
magnificent sons whom I love dearly, seven healthy and intelligent grandsons and one adorable granddaughter, two incredibly smart stepsoand an absolutely gorgeous stepdaughter. It doesn't get much better than that.

Although Diane and I agreed to divorce in 2011, we remain close friends and see each other regularly. Being younger and fitter than I am, it is only fair that she be free to enjoy the rest of her life without being burdened by my afflictions. I pray that she finds lasting love, good health, peace and fulfilment in the remaining years of her life'.

LIFE IN 2017

In 2004, I was faced with a dichotomy; live the mediocre life prescribed by the physicians and expire ultimately not really having lived or continue as I had done before the stroke and enjoy each new day as it came, if it came

I naturally gravitated back to Umhlanga Rocks where I had friends and where I had been happiest before. Soon I became re-acquainted with old colleagues, met new ones, enjoyed each day as if it were my last and, as I was not allowed to work, began to reconstruct my life as a disabled person.



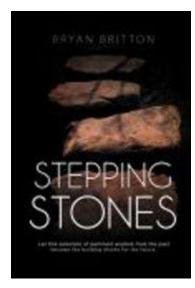
BOOKS

I re-ignited my interest in writing. I had previously leaned heavily on researching facts upon which I could rely, verify and publish. I was not yet brave enough to express my own opinions for fear of criticism and so produced books of non-fiction.

The decline of my country, South Africa, from a Western Democracy in 1994 to an African Kleptocracy in 2017 became the background to much of my writing.

As I grew bolder and began to form opinions on issues, I timidly began introducing my own thoughts and opinions into the non-fiction material.

Stepping Stones



A Guide for the Youth on Morality, Ethics and Life. The Sages, Philosophers, Luminaries and Prominent Citizens of History have left a Footprint for living a Moral and Productive Life. Their Wisdom Endures Forever.

Aimed at the youth of South Africa the work of nonfiction attempted to forewarn of an African Kleptocracy wherein an elitist black society would form without regard for education or development of the youthful population.

On April1, 2017 these predictions became reality with the capture of the Treasury and the dismissal of the Minister of Finance Pravin Gordon and his Deputy Minister Jonas Mcebisi.

Stepping Stones has been downloaded 1,450 times from the free e-books site on the internet.

A Bridge Too Far



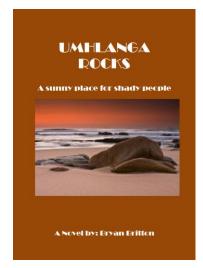
An autobiography of one South African's experiences growing up in Apartheid riddled South Africa. Between 1948 and 1994 South Africa was abhorred by the world because of its dreadful separate development policies. Life however had to go on for South Africa's multi cultured citizens. Here is one man's account of those draconian days.

'A Bridge Too Far' is the story of my life and was undertaken to test my memory following the stroke. It demonstrated that my long distant recall of events was better than my memory of more recent occurrences.

The book ends two years before my retirement at age sixty-five and the termination of my disability pension on the same date.

A Bridge Too Far, runs to 450 odd pages and has been downloaded some 3,200 times from the free e-books website.

Umhlanga Rocks: Sunny Place for Shady People



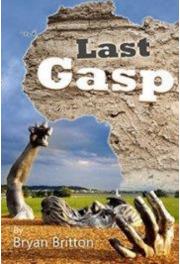
Jacques Perot is an ex-executive turned beach bum living in the bohemian sub-tropical paradise known as Umhlanga Rocks. He finds a new zest for life in meeting the lovely Linda, a newcomer to the village. By chance he uncovers a plot that can disturb the frivolity and fun of this unique place on the eastern shores of South Africa. Together with Captain de Villiers he unravels a plot that seems to lead to the Premiers of both South Africa and China. As the clock ticks down to the May 7, 2014 elections in South Africa, the two intrepid investigators with the help of the free press, attempt to bring the magnitude of the kleptocracy and neo-colonialism being

perpetrated to the attention of the South African voters.

This was an initial attempt at fiction. The book is based solidly on current political events at the time and deals extensively with the Nkandla saga and Jacob Zuma's defiance of the Constitution. The fiction element in the book was still too timid in the story line but does introduce dialogue, characters and occasionally an opinion.

The book has been downloaded some 700 times from the free e-books website.

Last Gasp



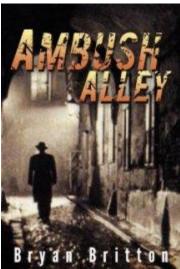
The jury is out. The judgement is awaited. The tension is palpable. The journalists wait, pens poised, to see whether African Kleptocracy or Western Democracy will prevail. The importance of the judgement is that it will determine the future of South Africa and its citizens. Over-dramatization? I think not. But while we wait what do the pundits say as the country teeters precariously on the edge of a fiscal cliff that may set it back twenty years... or worse.

Again, a weak story line gives way to powerful political events dragging South Africa towards Kleptocracy.

The book has been downloaded some 300 times from the

free e-books website.

Ambush Alley



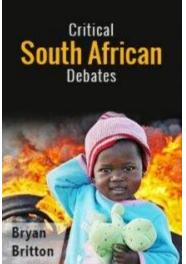
We expected too much in 1994. With the collapse of communism, we anticipated that, with the ANC under Mandela, South Africa would subscribe to Western Democracy. For a while under him and later Mbeki, we did just that. We applied Western Economic Policies and stepped back from the precipice upon which we were finely balanced. Under Zuma that all changed. We are now in bed with Indian Gangsters, Russian Oligarchs, Chinese Colonialists, impoverished Brazilians and anyone else who will pay Zuma and his cronies enough money.

Who stole my country?

Ambush Alley is where the author loiters to meet the locals of the Umhlanga Rocks Village. Besides meeting some of these locals, the book is a platform for people's views on current developments in South Africa.

The book has been downloaded some 300 times from the free e-books website.

Critical South African Debates



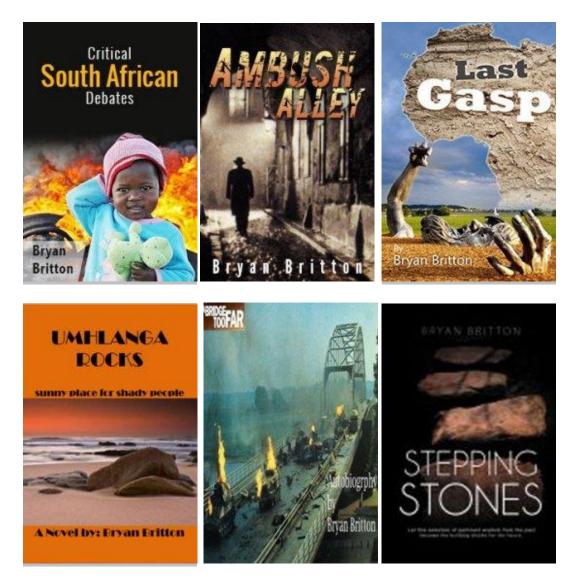
March 31, 2017 will be forever remembered as the day when Zuma fired Gordhan and his sidekick Jonas. The two true South Africans who resolutely defended the last bastions of democracy – the Treasury and the Public Investment Corporation. The kleptocrats, looters, thieves and thugs have now assailed the ramparts and are about to rampage through the castle. The soldiers who made the breach possible should however prepare to go back to their lowly billets. The loot will be shared by a small group of generals who mysteriously appeared, at the time of the breach

Published on March 1, 2017 this is likely my last publication. It is a compilation of news reports written by erudite journalists which, when cobbled together as various critical debates occurring in South Africa, present a chronology of South Africa's decline from Democracy in 1994 to the present African Kleptocracy in 2017.

The book has been downloaded from the free e-book site 38 times in the last two weeks.

DOWNLOAD ALL SIX FOR FREE AT:

https://www.free-ebooks.net/profile/107155/bryan-britton



PUBLISHED ARTICLES

I also became active on electronic web sites, publishing some twenty-seven articles on the Linkedin Website and more than a dozen articles on the Thought Leaders, Biznews and Fin24 platforms.

I regularly submit written matter to Alec Hogg and Stuart Lowman for their consideration.



Up there with the best political liars – will Zuma put Nixon to shame?

Veteran financial consultant Bryan Britton reminds us just how much pious rhetoric a politician can spew – in this case juxtaposing national kleptocracy with President Zuma's glittering inaugural speech. It's a breath-taking view of behaviour proving stated intentions spectacularly dishonest. While some readers may believe it's stating the obvious, how many actually remember exactly what Msholozi said when he took over, besides solemnly vowing to uphold the tenets of our hard-won Constitution? Few I daresay, which makes this piece a timely reminder, lest the country-wide protests that saw hundreds of thousands of outraged citizens march against his continued presence at the helm, recede into whimsical nostalgia. We're back into fighting the real hard yards now as the new political kleptocracy and imploding economy threaten every citizen's quality of life, especially the poor whose hopes of a better life are diminishing with fearful speed. Whether we can recover from this near-fatal crash depends on us erecting indestructible traffic lights at what was previously a four-way stop - and hunting down and putting behind bars the obnoxious hit-and-run driver. Msholozi's inaugural speech is proving as big and fat a lie as Richard Nixon's "I'm not a crook" at the height of the Watergate scandal. What he'll say when the full extent of his machinations is finally revealed, hardly bears thinking about? – Chris Bateman

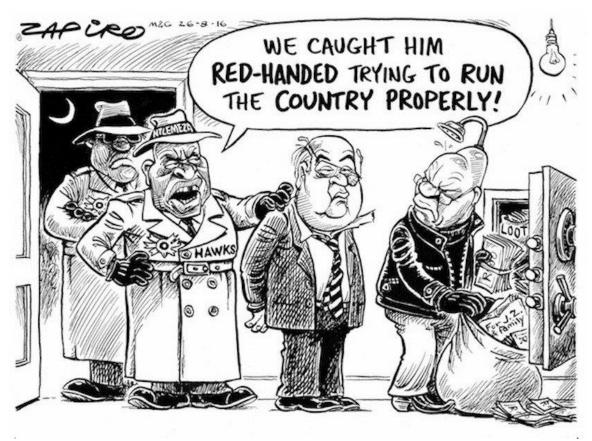
By Bryan Britton*

A country, previously a leader on the African Continent, slipped these past weeks into a typical African Kleptocracy. Democratic principles practised by former Presidents Mbeki and Mandela have been discarded and since 2007 current President Zuma has remained unaccountable to Parliament and has systematically attacked the Constitution, the Judiciary, the Free Press and the Treasury.

Through his popular patronage he has desecrated the economy and finally fashioned an African Kleptocracy that was held at bay for a number of years by the last bastion of Constitutional Democracy – the Treasury.

The New South Africa was born on April Fools' Day 2017.

Gone is the custodian of economic sense – Pravin Gordhan. Gone is the custodian of the Public Sector Pension Fund – Mcebisi Jonas. Gone is South Africa's Credit Rating.



Let the looting begin!

South Africa is now State Captured Junk with little wriggle room. With Borrowings to Gross Domestic Product projected to 2019 in excess of 50%, the country has nowhere to go but down.

The resultant exodus of foreign capital will further reduce the level of Foreign Direct Investment, upon which the South African Economy is critically dependent, rendering goods and services highly inflationary.

Sadly, the rural poor, the backbone of President Zuma's electoral support base, will suffer the most. Here is a reminder of what the goat herder from Nkandla said to those poor souls at his inauguration.

"Today, as I take this solemn Oath of Office as the Fourth President of the Republic of South Africa, I do so deeply conscious of the responsibilities that you, the people of our country are entrusting in me.

I commit myself to the service of our nation with dedication, commitment, discipline, integrity, hard work and passion.

Compatriots, today, we enter a new era in the history of our nation, imbued with a resolve to do everything within our means to build a better life for all our people. Today, we renew our struggle to forge a nation that is at peace with itself and the world. As we rejoice in being surrounded by our friends from all over the world, we reiterate our gratitude for the sterling contribution of the international community to our struggle for freedom". Jacob Zuma

"Let us build a nation that remains forever mindful of its history, of those who have sacrificed so much, and the many that put down their lives so we can be here today.

A nation filled with the laughter and joy of children.

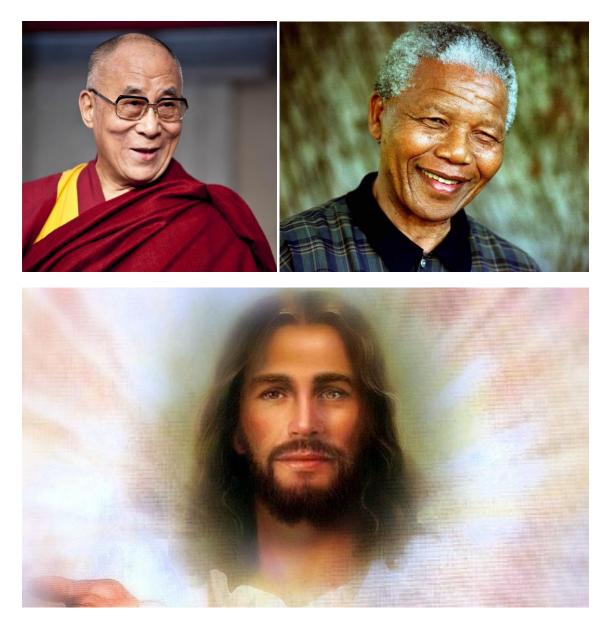
A nation filled with a hope born of the knowledge that if we work together, we will achieve our dreams". Jacob Zuma

*Bryan Britton is the author of 'Stepping Stones'

INSIGNIFICANT MEN MAKE DEMANDS ON PEOPLE



SIGNFICANT MEN MAKE DEMANDS ON THEMSELVES



Jesus has been named the most significant person in human history, followed by Napoleon and Shakespeare, as ruled by the internet.

Based on the impact on opinions certain individuals have had over time, and how that has reflected onto their Wikipedia pages, two computer scientists have come up with the ultimate list.

Professor Steven Skiena and Charles Ward use quantities analysis to rank more than a thousand historical figures and prominent people, from Elvis to Beethoven, Stalin and Queen Victoria.

THE TEN MOST SIGNIFICANT FIGURES IN HUMAN HISTORY (according to Wikipedia)

- Algorithm based on impact on opinions over time and Wikipedia
- Top ten most significant in history puts Jesus in the number one spot
- The list also includes Muhammad, Lincoln, Hitler and Shakespeare

Jesus Napoleon Bonaparte William Shakespeare Muhammad Abraham Lincoln George Washington Adolf Hitler Aristotle Alexander the Great Thomas Jefferson

We would call Jesus "the most significant person ever",' said Professor Skiena. With over two billion followers a full 2,000 years after his death, Jesus is an incredibly successful historical meme.' And sometimes publication comes with controversy. The article below caused a bit of a stir because I used a source which turned out to be inaccurate. I had to eat humble pie but learned a valuable lesson.

fin24

Bryan Britton: Local Municipality deficiencies need 'Einstein' moment come August

This story has been updated with the right of reply of Charl Kocks of Ratings South Africa.

Mr Kocks writes: Ratings Afrika is misquoted in an extremely serious manner in the article by Mr Bryan Britton on BizNews 29 April 2016.

He states "The current **ANC** political leadership in control of the majority of municipalities has demonstrated over the last five years, and more, to not being capable of sound governance. This is the main cause of their low financial sustainability," Ratings Afrika said." The fact is that Ratings Afrika did NOT name a political party".

With the **local municipal elections set for 3 August**, author Bryan Britton takes a look at their overall performance. He uses the Ratings Afrika's Index, which evaluates the operating performance, management of liabilities, budget practices and liquidity position of municipalities, and scores each component out of 100. The numbers aren't flattering, and the expectation is that service delivery and quality of living will deteriorate in South Africa over the short and medium term. – Stuart Lowman



By Bryan Britton*

"Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

Albert Einstein, German-born physicist (1879 – 1955)"

Ratings Afrika's Index evaluates the operating performance, management of liabilities, budget practices and liquidity position of municipalities, and scores each component out of 100.

Of the 100 municipalities analysed by the group, 60 scored an average under 50% – 42 of which scored under 35%.

The country had an average score of only 43% – a position it has maintained over the past five years, indicating inadequate financial management practices and discipline, which the ratings group pins squarely on the ANC.

"The political leaders of the municipalities in South Africa, whose responsibility it is to govern, have failed in the majority of municipalities, as reflected by their weak financial sustainability," the group said.

"The same thread is visible in many state-owned entities such as Eskom, SAA, Post Office and the SABC, where financial weakness is largely caused by weak financial governance on behalf of the political leaders and management in charge of these entities."

"The sad reality is that this weak financial governance is also prevalent in Central Government, which is now threatened with sovereign rating downgrades by the world's leading rating agencies," Ratings Afrika said.

According to the report, of all South Africa's major metros, the City of Cape Town is the most financially sustainable, with a score of 75%. This is followed by Buffalo City (Eastern Cape) with 73% and Ekurhuleni (Gauteng) at 70%.

Ironically, Tshwane and City of Johannesburg (Gauteng) are the worst-run metros, despite being the wealthiest – managing a score of only 24% and 37%, respectively

"This reflects severe deficiencies in their budgeting practices and financial discipline," the group said.

SA provincial financial sustainability score (out of 100) - 5 year review

Province	2011	2012	2013	2014
Western Cape	50	46	50	54
KwaZulu Natal	54	58	61	59
Northern Cape	41	50	45	49
Limpopo	46	47	44	50
Eastern Cape	53	49	42	38
Mpumalanga	32	33	30	27
Gauteng	29	28	35	34
North West	30	30	33	29
Free State	31	25	27	27
South Africa	43	42	43	43

Province	2011	2012	2013	2014
Western Cape	50	46	50	54
KwaZulu Natal	54	58	61	59
Northern Cape	41	50	45	49
Limpopo	46	47	44	50
Eastern Cape	53	49	42	38
Mpumalanga	32	33	30	27
Gauteng	29	28	35	34
North West	30	30	33	29
Free State	31	25	27	27
South Africa	43	42	43	43

SA metros financial sustainability score (out of 100)

Metro	2011	2012	2013	2014
Cape Town	64	63	62	61
Buffalo City	50	57	77	78
Ekurhuleni	43	64	62	67
Nelson Mandela Bay	25	33	48	59
eThekwini	49	52	59	52
Manuang	30	34	57	62
Johannesburg	26	36	52	49
Tshwane	32	31	32	26
Average	40	46	56	57

According to Ratings Afrika, the expectation is that service delivery and quality of living will deteriorate in the country over the short and medium term.

"The current political leadership in control of the majority of municipalities has demonstrated over the last five years, and more, to not being capable of sound governance. This is the main cause of their low financial sustainability," Ratings Afrika said.

Mr Einstein please guide us in the upcoming Local Municipal Elections.

• Bryan Britton is the author of 'Stepping Stones'

Right of reply: Charl Kocks of Ratings Afrika

Ratings Afrika is misquoted in an extremely serious manner in the article by **Mr Bryan Britton on BizNews** 29 April 2016.

He states:

"The current **ANC** political leadership in control of the majority of municipalities has demonstrated over the last five years, and more, to not being capable of sound governance. This is the main cause of their low financial sustainability," Ratings Afrika said." (My colouring and bolding added.)

The fact is that Ratings Afrika did NOT name a political party. This is because the party in control is NOT always the ANC; but more importantly, the sentence is to underscore that the politicisation of municipalities is (in a majority of cases) is now affecting their ability to act appropriately; and there are multiple facets to that statement.

We strive to remain apolitical in our analyses which are a critical factor of our business sustainability; and in one fell swoop Mr Britton and your news service has damaged this. I regard this to be extremely unfair and journalistically dishonest.

As Step One, please correct this very serious error very publicly; and please do so also at the level of Fin24 who lifted your article.

With great disappointment.

Kocks' second email reads:

Thank you for what I regard as Step One, namely removing the letters 'ANC' from the quotation from our press release, both on BizNews and on Fin24.

As mentioned, what happened was not only wholly unacceptable (to put it mildly) but also hugely damaging in both reputational and business terms. Ratings Afrika must at all times act impartially, and be seen to act impartially; and especially in an area like municipal sustainability and service delivery, heightened by the fact that municipal elections are in the offing, needs to be respected as a non-partisan commentator and remain completely out of party politics. We have achieved this throughout since CA-Ratings first published its Assessments of Debt Governance for the municipalities almost 20 years ago, and we remain steadfast in this respect.

In this context, in order to settle this matter, we request most strongly that as Step Two you publish on BizNews and on Fin24 in a prominent manner (specifically, no less prominent than the manner wherein the article(s) appeared) and for no shorter period than the articles were carried, unambiguous wording that achieves the following:

1. Sets out the misleading quotation and the fact that Ratings Afrika at no time made such a statement or inference; and

• Clarifies that Ratings Afrika has made it abundantly clear that it remains apolitical in all respects, as it has always been.

• We request that you provide us with the draft wording of the retraction and clarifications before publishing them.

We reserve all our rights in respect of this matter.

This is a storm in a tea cup. The main point of the story has been missed. Most of my opinions were formed on physical visits to the Municipalities representing Deloitte & Touche where I discovered a different set of circumstances. An extract from 'Stepping Stones' paints this picture:

Local Government

Our Government operates through three tiers of authority: Parliament, Provincial Government and Local Government. Some say that duplication of functions exists between the latter two tiers and that a less cumbersome organisation structure would eliminate duplication, make for faster lines of communication and result in more effective execution of priorities. All of this would certainly speed up the pace of service delivery.

Be that as it may, despite this bloated organisational structure, whose main collective priority is to provide services to communities, there has been an appalling lack of progress since 1994. At the behest of the National Executive, the provincial government implemented a crisis plan to correct this disaster. The plan, named Project Consolidate, was launched in October 2004.

Despite the concern expressed by the National Executive, and the billions of rands poured into this problem, the *Mail & Guardian* reported as follows on June 20, 2008: "About 60 percent of municipalities cannot give evidence to account for the revenue they received. These are mostly low-capacity municipalities, which means that they get their revenue from the National Treasury, and do not have to collect the bulk of their revenues from the citizens". These are the shocking findings of Auditor General Terence Nombembe on the Local Government 2006/2007 financial results for South Africa's 283 municipalities. Nombembe continues: "More than 50 percent cannot account for the bulk of their expenditure, so their statements cannot be trusted". He adds that: "Only 25 percent of South African municipalities received unqualified audit reports". That implies that three quarters of our municipalities are in trouble one way or the other. Almost 33 percent of municipal funds are 'lost' through 'fruitless and wasteful expenditure'.

Almost 10 percent of municipalities (about 28) were unable to submit financial statements to the Auditor General's Office at all. The Municipal Finance Management Act requires that financial statements "be audited and submitted annually, on time, to the Auditor General's Office".

The Act further provides that municipal managers, mayors and financial managers are to be held liable for funds that are not accounted for. So the legislative machinery is in place to effectively manage municipal affairs. The problem, however, lies in the quality of the officials appointed to observe the legislation. Even if these individuals were well intentioned, they are utterly unsuited and under qualified for the task at hand.

The predictable ANC cognoscenti will immediately run, at this point, to their "fault of apartheid" arsenal of defences, thus relieving themselves of all blame, then and now. If their constituents buy all of this hackneyed gobbledegook, then sadly, these patient constituents deserve the government that they get. And under these pathetic circumstances the constituents should put their hopes of a better life on hold, until their elected ANC officials have achieved their capitalistic ambitions. May I humbly suggest that these poor souls assemble in long queues once more in about 2094 to get their share of the action.

How in good conscience can we allow the income taxes we pay on our hard-earned salaries, and the escalating rates and taxes we fork out for our properties, simply to be absorbed by individuals, for their personal gain?

All the while the downtrodden patiently await simple sanitation, water and electricity, promised 16 long years ago.

Provincial and Local Government Minister, Sydney Mufamadi, said at his Budget Vote in Parliament on June 3, 2008: "Progress was demonstrated by on the ground manifestations of progress since the introduction of Project Consolidate three years ago". This progress, I venture to suggest, has only come about since Government asked private enterprise to partner them in their efforts in Project Consolidate. This after Government, in their wisdom, had retrenched all the municipal stalwarts and replaced them with ANC sympathisers or favourite nephews, who had scant knowledge of municipal affairs.

Where, one may ask, was the South African Local Government Association, an organisation mandated to assist in the transformation of the country's 283 municipalities? Amos Masondo, SALGA Chairman, has recently, belatedly, fumbled his way to the podium, to say: "Incompetent officials who lack the necessary qualifications to run government finances, have no role to play in local government". This blinding flash of the obvious comes as the Auditor General announces 191 qualified audit reports (or 67 percent) for municipalities and only two (or one percent) clean audits for the 2006/7 financial year.

Asked about fears of massive looting in municipalities Masondo said: "Many of these problems are caused by unqualified people, incompetent individuals".

He continues: "Corruption thrives where things are not done in an orderly way".

Twenty-four municipalities have been placed under curatorship since 2004. Project Consolidate managed to rehabilitate 14 of these by 2009. To date 11 municipalities or four percent still remain under curatorship.

Masondo warned that officials who mismanage municipal finances should be brought to book and prosecuted for their actions. According to the statistics *that would entail putting most of the local government management in jail.* But wait, it gets worse. On September 10, 2009, the Auditor General, Terence Nombembe, announced to the Cape Town Press Club that only three of the 283 municipalities in South Africa had their books in order. Can it get worse!! Most definitely. Of 119 provincial departments audited, only seven have balanced their books.

For gosh sakes! Do you think we should tell him about Parliament?

Well Parliament already knows and sets a sorry example by having only seven out of 34 departments with a clean bill of health at the national level. To make matters worse it owes municipalities money!!! It ranks amongst the debtors that owe municipalities rates and taxes, levies and electricity dues. A massive sum of 55 billion rands is due by government and big business to municipalities. Service delivery stands idly by waiting for the big hogs to finish feeding at the trough. The Auditor-General's Office has released consolidated audit outcomes for 2008/9 and irregular and wasteful expenditure in the following national departments was found:

Correctional Services R 344million Home Affairs 92million Labour 87million Agriculture 15million Land Affairs 5million National Lottery 6million

A further six departments still have to have their audits completed. Jillian Bailey, the Auditor-General's Head of Auditing, highlighted human resources as the biggest warning signal in many departments. She added that a host of departments also appeared to lack the capacity to account for their capital assets.

The Provincial Social Development Department announces at the same time that senior government officials are suspected of defrauding the department of as much as 60 million rands. These funds were allocated to help alleviate poverty in the KwaZulu-Natal Province. Those officials involved in the scam have had their bank accounts frozen by the commercial crimes unit.

But now back to local government.

Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Sicelo Shiceka said recently that many municipalities are in a state of distress and that "widespread corruption, fraud and nepotism is evident".

Now here is the thing. As the intelligent ruling party deploys favourite nieces and nephews among their elite voters to these government posts and the stealing, starving and toy-toying masses religiously keep the party in the majority, one can only come to the conclusion that this is a bold and ingenious 'Ponzi scheme'.

A scheme where the elitists are the haves and the rest of us voting South Africans, White, Black, Asian and Coloured, are the have-nots. Perhaps the hardworking have-

nots should withhold their hard-earned tax contributions to shrink the funds available for plunder.

Municipalities had been the stronghold of the Nationalist Party since their ascendancy to power in 1948. Municipal management was consequently predominantly Afrikaans. After 1994 that began to change. I was witness to the changing of the guard which, in some extreme cases in KwaZulu-Natal, resulted in a three-way tussle for power between the incumbent National Party descendants, the emerging African National Congress hopefuls and the Inkatha Freedom Party protagonists. It was an exasperating environment in which to do business. It resembled, at times, three dogs fighting over a bone. As a dispassionate businessman, concerned only with equipping the municipal organ with the essential means to account for and speed up the service delivery process, this dogfight was counter-productive, mired in self-interest and most certainly did not benefit the citizens in the respective communities.

The National Party descendants clung to power and denied the incoming affirmatives access to knowledge gained over decades. Where the ANC had assumed the mantle of power, they were incapable of doing the job. The ANC arrogantly expelled the previous incumbents only to hire them as consultants at exorbitantly high fees.

The following scenario was regrettably the norm in many of the municipalities visited: Since 1994 simple folk have patiently waited for basic services and housing promised by the new constitution. These promises have been frustrated by the greed and ignorance of the ANC and the reluctance of the outgoing municipal genre to co-operate in the handover process. And while the dogs continued to fight over the bone, the bone continued to be mutilated.

Finance Manager National Party descendent retired with huge handshake

Succeeded by

Finance Manager ANC political appointee on suspension

Succeeded by

Acting Finance Manager ANC political appointee on suspension

Succeeded by

A consultant

ANC crisis appointee being the same guy who retired

And what of Project Consolidate? Hundreds of millions of taxpayers' hard-earned funds poured into a bottomless pit to fix the problem. No feedback. No prosecutions. No accountability. No results. The Honourable Mufamadi has moved on to a new trough without devouring all the slop in the last one. Professional audit reports lay piled up in the in-trays of incumbents too busy lunching or without the wherewithal to care, while the party goes on.

The cost of the Auditor General's work is some 550 million rands annually.

A hard-hitting government report now describes how political meddling and infighting have brought many municipalities to the brink of collapse, unable to render services. And how funds are squandered while backlogs continue to mount. Gaye Davis of the *Sunday Independent* reported on October 18, 2009 that the *Independent* was in possession of a 60-page executive summary of the report which underpinned urgent moves by the Government to halt the downward spiral of decay and mismanagement and quell rising popular anger.

Compiled from assessments carried out in all nine provinces between April and August 2009 at the behest of Co-operative and Traditional Affairs Minister, Sicelo Shiceka, this new report recommends a range of interventions to halt the rot.

It proposes stripping regional and provincial ANC structures of their powers to put people into top municipal jobs. Also political intervention to deal with tensions and mistrust between municipal officials and councillors.

And most importantly, to pursue fraud and corruption allegations.

The report lays the basis for a turnaround strategy for local government to be submitted by the end of 2009 for government approval and implementation in January 2010.

A summit (more wining and dining at the trough) was held recently where President Zuma debated Shiceka's Report with all nine MECs and Premiers for local government as well as all of the South African Government Association officials.

A ship without a rudder is not unlike a cork. It floats but sadly is devoid of any direction or other meaningful use.

The report concludes: "Patronage and nepotism is now so widespread that formal systems of accountability are ineffective and inaccessible to most citizens. There is now a lack of citizen confidence and trust in the system. Funds are siphoned off through poor financial management and corruption, service charges go uncollected and proper planning has been abandoned".

Contrast this sad state of affairs with Nelson Mandela's inaugural speech on May 10, 1994 when he said: "They (the 1990 ANC Bill of Rights) project a democracy in which the government, whomever that government may be, will be bound by a

higher set of rules, embodied in a constitution and it will not be able to govern the country as it pleases... there will be regular, open and free elections at all levels of government – central, provincial and municipal". It has taken just 16 years to trash Madiba's dream.

The solution? Another summit. Another grand scheme. More billions thrown at the problem and then, like Project Consolidate in 2004, no progress, no results, no convictions, no prosecutions, no follow through, no communication with the affected communities and only apathetic shrugs from officials making a series of 'Eishhhh!!!' noises.

On public television on November 2, 2009 Shiceka himself was already starting to misquote the outcome statistics on Project Consolidate, which, happily for some, has now been swept under the carpet.

Should voters patiently wait until Shiceka's concerns are also inevitably swept under the self-same tapestry??

In the medium term, between 2009 and 2011, local government will receive, through the equitable share, municipal systems' improvement grant and the municipal infrastructure grant, a combined amount of some R122 billion. With the existing creaky financial structures, lack of accountability, qualified audits and a level of corruption that defies belief, you young voters will have to start asking pertinent questions of your local municipal manager, your SALGA appointee, your Provincial MEC, your Parliamentary representative and your President.

If you do not, your town's budget will disappear long before you get a toilet.

RANT REVISITED



My rant below, first published in the book 'Stepping Stones' in 2010, has largely gone unheeded and many of the problems enunciated then still persist six years later. The voting public is in a worse position today than it was then, the country is poorer by billions and our standing in the world community has been denigrated. Our soccer, rugby and cricket teams are a joke

and the one true hope of re-vitalisation – a vibrant education sector – is in turmoil. Our economy stands on the brink of junk status and the rural poor are still poor despite religiously voting the ANC power over the past twenty-two years.

At what point do ordinary South African citizens draw a line in the sand and demand their dignity back?

Looking back to 2010......

'The report card, since Mr Mandela's inauguration 16 years ago, is abysmal. Despite favourable worldwide economic conditions throughout this period and vastly improved collections by the Fiscus (through more of the country's emerging economically active population contributing) progress on the above key issues has at best been pedestrian, and at worst extremely regressive.

Our Parliament has been responsible for a litany of corrupt, self-serving and dubious decisions including the Travel Scandal, the HIV/Aids Debacle, the Arms Deal cover up, cover up of the Police Commissioner's shady dealings, silent support of a neighbouring tyrant, with the blood of his opponents still on his hands, turning of a blind eye on the illegal immigration problem and the soaring incidence of crime, which takes its lead from Parliament and infiltrates South African society, not only as an evil, but also as an arrogant entitlement.

The audit trail also reveals crime, fraud and corruption amongst the new officers in national and provincial spheres of government and serious insolvency and bankruptcy in local government spheres. The legal system, as a result, is creaking under the strain of trying to maintain justice. A Constitutional Court aspirant is currently under suspicion of favouring a contender and of accepting pecuniary inducement to favour a commercial enterprise. The jury is still out on this one but the last bastion of democracy, fair play and 'good' is about to be subverted. Watch this space.

In this regard, the moral stalwarts of the struggle, Madiba and Tutu, must be cringing at the behaviour of some of their fellow countrymen. The newly appointed group of leaders are not listening to their moral mentors, and should be setting the moral example for the youth of South Africa.

These are the challenges that you young Democrats, of whatever colour and persuasion, face in the not so new South Africa. Your challenge is not only to become productive taxpayers, but also to ensure that state funds are honestly allocated and used for upliftment of the poor, support of the infirm and aged, creation of self-sufficiency in the country, creation of a stable business environment, honest administration and so on. In pursuit of these moral objectives the perpetrators of elitism, sloth, greed and the rest of that ugly family of vices, should be rooted out, and voted out.

Icons of the struggle on the African continent against colonialism, racism, white domination and cultural oppression are to be admired and revered – and then committed to history. Their victories have been celebrated. The freedom that some died for has been attained. Now the surviving heroes must graciously bow out and hand over the spoils of war to the communities that they served.

They did not suffer for their own glorification and edification.

They fought so that their sons and daughters could grow up in a non-racial, democratic environment which would ensure a new and economically viable South Africa within Africa and the world.

The history of Africa shows that when the oppressor leaves, he is replaced by an even greater oppressor. In South Africa, colonialism was replaced by apartheid, which has been replaced by African nationalism. Sadly, African nationalism does not mean devolution of power to the lowest common denominator, you the voting South African citizen. African nationalism has shown itself in other African countries to be the worst of the previous white regimes, merely dressed in an elite black face. Our closest neighbour boasts a narrow, super-rich, black class that, whilst blaming former white regimes, has plundered the coffers of the country to leave the once rich and fertile country of Zimbabwe starving, bankrupt and bereft of hope.

Before our all partying, all singing, all dancing former struggle heroes, now elite black rulers, bask too long in the sun with their snouts in the trough, you ordinary voting citizens of South Africa should point north and remind them of Africa's shameful record of black on black oppression. Remind them, instead of swapping war stories at the country club over claret and grilled partridge wings, to enjoin the new struggle against African elitism, against illiteracy, disease, ignorance, starvation, corruption and the moral decline amongst the youth of this country. If they do not, the next oppressor may well be from Beijing.

STEP ASIDE YOU GREEDY OLD MEN



'A subject so grave it must surely top the 'to do list' of the President. Alas no. He gives credence instead to the notoriously retrogressive SA Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU) backed by that ever-grasping dalliance partner, Cosatu. Over the past five years SADTU has the dubious distinction of topping the list of days lost through strike action. Of all working days lost in this period, 42 percent were incurred by our infamous teachers' union.

The future of South Africa lies in the hands of the youth of the nation. The key to that event lies in the education of that youth. The success of that endeavour depends on teachers being at school to teach and having the moral obligation and incentive to teach. Finally, the government must have the will to prioritise education above all else. That scenario seems too simple. Perhaps those entrusted to execute these plans have a greedier and more devilish agenda?'

'Stepping Stones' by Bryan Britton published in the USA in 2012

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Five years on SADTU is stronger and more influential than ever, presents a more



formidable ANC voting base and is still the biggest strike action perpetrator. At the same time our education standards are lower and, notwithstanding the easier curriculum, our matriculation pass rates are worse. Education today absorbs more of our GDP than in 2012 and, despite this special attention, our youth unemployment figure has soared to over 50%.

government and a democracy for education of the youth to succeed?

Perhaps the current politicians and their supporters fear that by adding 'clever blacks' to the existing 'clever whites' their greedy Kleptocracy will be brought to an end.

Move over you greedy old men.

Rebecca Davis gives an outstanding update to this critical issue in her examination 'SADTU: SA's most controversial union faces human rights probe - Bryan Britton

SADTU: SA's most controversial union faces human rights probe

Rebecca Davis

11 May 2017

No trade union in the democratic history of South Africa has attracted as much criticism as SADTU, the South African Democratic Teachers Union. In the past, attempts to weaken the union's powerful hold on the country's education system have largely come to naught. Over 18 months ago, the Democratic Alliance tried to go another route: asking the South African Human Rights Commission to probe whether SADTU is violating the constitutional rights of learners to a basic education. It's now been confirmed that the investigation is under way.

Selling teaching positions. Protecting sex-pest teachers. Regularly calling strikes which shut down teaching and learning at schools that can ill afford the lost time. These are just some of the charges routinely laid at the door of the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU), which in the past has seemed to wield an unbreakable influence over the country's education system.

Now, the DA is hoping that the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) can intervene. The opposition party announced on Thursday that it has been informed that the SAHRC is investigating SADTU, following a complaint laid by the DA in September 2015.

"Children's rights is one of seven focus areas of the SAHRC," DA shadow basic education minister Gavin Davis told the *Daily Maverick* on Thursday. "We therefore expect the SAHRC to conduct a thorough investigation into the myriad ways that SADTU denies children their right to a decent basic education."

The DA has asked the SAHRC to investigate, in particular, SADTU's "blocking of measures to hold educators accountable for poor performance'; its "neglect of teaching and learning while engaged in various unlawful protests and strikes", and its "unlawful interference and corruption in the appointment of teachers and principals".

Davis also points out that South Africa has more teaching days lost to strike action than any other country in southern Africa.

"It is no wonder that we get a poor return on the huge amount of money we spend on education, to the detriment of children living in the poorest parts of the country," he says.

The opposition party has been one of SADTU's most consistent and vocal critics, and there is no love lost between the two bodies. "The DA will never rest until they destroy our organisation," SADTU media officer Nomusa Cembi told the *Daily Maverick*.

Leaving political ill will aside, however, is there merit in investigating whether SADTU as an organisation has contributed to denying children their right to education?

"Definitely," says Dr Nic Spaull, a senior researcher in the economics department at Stellenbosch University who has written extensively on education policy.

"Perhaps the most recent and comprehensive treatment of this topic is the Ministerial Task Team on the jobs-for-cash scandal which was released last year, also called the Volmink Report. That report states emphatically that SADTU has captured the education department in most provinces to the detriment of education."

The Volmink Report found that "six and possibly more of the nine provinces are where SADTU is in de facto charge of the management, administration and priorities of education there". The report states that SADTU's "undue influence" is "endemic to greater and lesser degrees in the entire education system".

Spaull also believes that it is problematic that most officials in the Department of Basic Education are paid-up member of SADTU – "making it difficult to play the role of referee in union-Department disputes".

He adds a note of caution, however: "I don't think that all the failings of the education system can be laid at the feet of SADTU. In many instances, SADTU is stepping into the gap that only exists because the department is not doing its job. The vacuum left by an absent administration is filled by SADTU."

Education lobby group Equal Education is also wary of putting all the blame for South Africa's education crisis on SADTU.

"Equal Education regards trade unions as a necessary component of a democracy," spokesperson Mila Kakaza told the *Daily Maverick.* "Teachers' unions, including SADTU, are indispensable to the transformation of South Africa's education system." The group warns against "turning valid criticisms of SADTU into reasons for undermining collective bargaining".

However, Equal Education also notes: "There is systemic rot which SADTU must accept its share of responsibility for."

SADTU's power cannot be understated: it boasts more than 260,000 members and a monthly income of R18-million-plus. Within the tripartite alliance, the union wields considerable political clout. Sipho Masondo pointed out in <u>*City Press*</u> last year: "It is the only affiliate of the labour federation Cosatu to be found in every corner of the country and in every ANC branch. This gives the ANC a powerful and well-organised campaign resource during elections. It is for this reason that the ANC will have no incentive to mess with SADTU."



If SADTU is to meet its Waterloo, it is unlikely to be at the hands of the SAHRC. The Chapter 9 institution is vested with the powers to "take steps and secure appropriate redress where human rights have been violated", but in practice is widely perceived as toothless. It failed to respond to queries about the investigation from the *Daily Maverick* on Thursday.

Davis says that he does not want to prescribe any particular sanctions to the SAHRC, since the investigation is still under way. "However, we hope that the SAHRC will recommend ways to balance the rights of educators to unionize and the rights of children to a quality basic education," he says.

For its part, SADTU says it knows precisely nothing about the investigation.

"SADTU has not received any letter from the Human Rights Commission notifying us that we are being investigated," SADTU media officer Nomusa Cembi told the *Daily Maverick*. She says that the union learnt that the DA had laid a complaint against them with the SAHRC in 2015 through media reports.

"We then wrote to the commission to ask if they had indeed received the complaint and if so [if they would] provide us with a copy and advise us on the steps they were going to take in handling the complaint. The commission, up to this day, never responded to us."

But SADTU will cooperate with any legal process – "even it is brought against us by our class enemies", Cembi says.

"SADTU remains a staunch supporter of quality public education for all our children, while protecting the rights of teachers as workers as per the same Constitution." **DM**

LINKEDIN DEMOCRATIC CYCLE



In 1887 Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh , had this to say about the fall of the Athenian Republic some 2,000 years prior: "A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse over loose fiscal policy (Hmm – I'm thinking Zuma). Sadly, this is always followed by a dictatorship." (Hmm – I'm thinking Malema)

"The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

From bondage to spiritual faith; From spiritual faith to great courage; From courage to liberty; From liberty to abundance; From abundance to complacency; From complacency to apathy; From apathy to dependence; From dependence back into bondage." The United States obituary follows: United States of America, Born 1776, Died 2016 Professor Joseph Olson of Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, points out some interesting facts concerning the last Presidential election:

Number of States won by: Obama: 19 Romney: 29 square miles of land won by: Obama: 580,000 Romney: 2,427,000 Population of counties won by: Obama: 127 million Romney: 143 million Murder per 100,000 residents in counties won by: Obama: 13.2 Romney: 2.1

Professor Olson adds: "In aggregate, the map of the territory Romney won was mostly the land owned by the taxpaying citizens of the country. (Like Cape Town I guess). Obama territory mostly encompassed those citizens living in low Income tenements and living off various forms of government welfare..."

Surely not the same as South Africa's rural poor?

Olson believes the United States is now somewhere between the "complacency and apathy" phase of Professor Tyler's definition of Democracy, with some forty percent of the nation's population already having reached the "governmental dependency" phase. (It did not take seventeen million South Africans that long).

If Congress grants amnesty and citizenship to twenty million criminal invaders called illegals - and they vote – (d'ya think our Zimbabweans, Malawians, Congolese and Zambians are similar) then we can say goodbye to the USA and Australia in fewer than five years.

And how does South Africa measure up?

Well I reckon we did the bondage to liberty thing under the ANC stalwarts in about one hundred years. Then we accomplished the liberty to apathy stage under Mbeki and Zuma in the next twenty two odd years. With the help of Russia, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and others we can cover the apathy through dependence back to the bondage stage in about another thirty years thereafter.

The ANC will have completed that 2,000 year old cycle in only one hundred and fifty two years.

Eat your heart out Athenians.

Bryan Britton

27 articles

WHO PAYS THE PIPER?



INCOME TAX CONTRIBUTION

"In South Africa, about 1.7 million people (roughly 3% of the population) pay about 80% of income tax," Ernst Roets of AfriForum tweeted. At the time of publishing, the tweet had been retweeted close to 200 times and liked 155 times.

One of AfriForum's readers asked that they verify the figure.

SARS and treasury officials, together with consulted experts, directed *Africa Check to annual tax statistics and budget review data as the best tax-related information. But both data sources have limitations.

While the latest tax statistics fall close to Roets of Afriforum's claim, these figures aren't inclusive of all taxpayers.

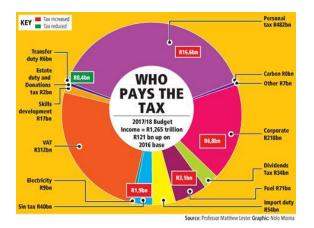
Treasury budget review data for 2016/2017 is in the same ballpark (1.7 million taxpayers contribute 78% of income tax) and takes into account all taxpayers, but these figures are estimates. The latest treasury estimates show 1.9 million individuals are expected to contribute an estimated 80% of income tax.

Given that claim requires clarification, we rate it mostly correct.

Researched by Gopolang Makou, *Africa Check, a non-partisan organisation which promotes accuracy in public debate and the media. Twitter <u>@AfricaCheck</u> and <u>www.africacheck.org</u>

INCOME TAX AS A PROPORTION OF ALL TAXATION

The 2017/18 South African Budget anticipated collecting R482bn in Personal Taxes out of an anticipated R1, 265 trillion for all taxes to be collected. VAT for collection amounted to R312bn, Corporate Taxes R218bn and Dividends Tax R34bn. All other forms of taxation amounted to R219bn.



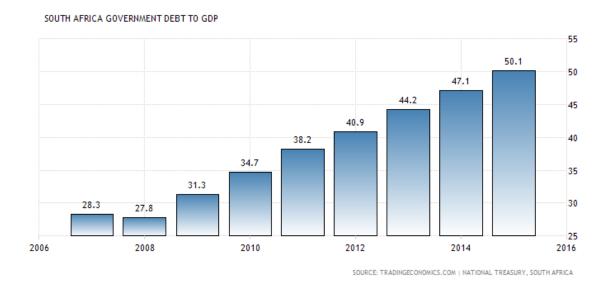
Personal Taxation amounts to 38% of all taxes to be collected.

Additional research by Bryan Britton former SARS Tax Practitioner

Selling our children short

Published on December 28, 2016

Bryan Britton



By 1994 the Apartheid Government had borrowed against South Africa's future in an attempt to uphold the untenable principle of separate development. At that time with a debt ratio of about 50% of GDP our children were faced with a future of repaying their errant parents debt well into the future.

Under the conservative stewardship of first Nelson Mandela and after him Thabo Mbeki Finance Minister Trevor Manual was allowed to reel in excess expenditure and prudently repay the country's debt.

By the time Jacob came to power Manuel had performed a minor miracle in reducing the National Debt to Gross Domestic Product to below 30%. South Africa was once again looking attractive to foreign investors and Foreign Direct Investment, upon which the South African Economy critically relies, was looking bullish.

With Zuma at the helm the wheels came off.

With a Debt to GDP ratio back up near fifty percent our children's' futures are once more in hock. Additionally, with Zuma relentlessly pursuing a nuclear build program, which the country does not need and certainly cannot afford, our kids, Black, Colored, Asian and White, do not have a future in South Africa.

Zuma has probably already banked the commission receivable on the nuclear deal with his pension manager. And greed begets the other six deadly sins.

I have this to say to Zuma: 'Pay back the money'.

FAREWELL AMBUSH ALLEY

After ten years in the Umhlanga Rocks Village it became time to leave. I had lived life at full throttle without a concern for tomorrow. And that is exactly how I wanted it to be. No sense in arriving at your destination with a full tank of petrol.

Unfortunately, I misjudged the length of the road and came up short of the destination in terms of health and wealth.

So, I am forced to rely on the charity of my family to survive. While I enjoy their company, love and affection most in my life, I realize the immense pressure placed on families by a South African Government which is at once naïve, dishonest, arrogant and mainly clueless. I would hate to become a burden to my kids. So, I will find a way to contribute to the family coffers.

I left Ambush Alley on Tuesday May 22, 2017 with great sadness. It had been my home and playground for ten years and I made many good friends, associates and acquaintances. I will return to visit as often as health, opportunity and finances permit.































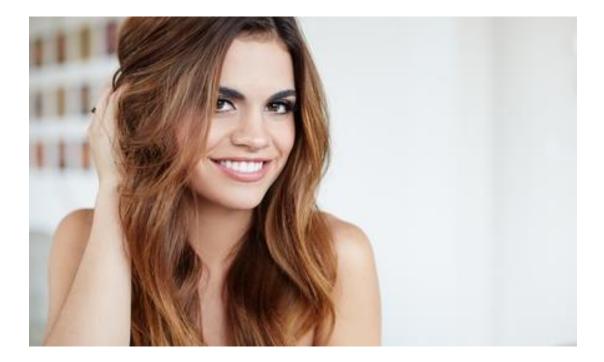






























































Meanwhile the locals in the Umhlanga Village did not give a jot. Sure, they worried about the kids and the grandkids but there was not a lot they could do to influence things. Besides, in their lifetimes they had seen it all before. Crises came and crises went and some of these folks had seen a good few of those.

So, the best antidote was to form a café society that went about each day in a genteel and relaxed way to ensure that their final days upon this earth would be restful and free of trauma.

Bridge, poker, debates, outings, scandals and shopping filled the 'unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run'. The rest of the time was spent at Luigi's on Ambush Alley savoring the fruity taste of Unbelievable.



The only thing that could jolt them out of their reverie was music. They had seen and heard almost every genre since the beginning of World War Two. Each had their favorite artist and numbers. All it took was to hear one of these tunes for that retiree to get glazed eyes remembering the occasion in their life which the music stirred.

Some were then emboldened to sing or hum along with the music and still others were motivated to grab the nearest available partner to shamble around Ambush Alley in hypnotic dance.

Jeff Baxter understood these sentimentalities having lived through the same eras and genres as his audience. Jeff, with his long grey stresses and grey beard was a cross-over between ZZ Top and Willy Nelson and could play both with gusto.

On this night it was Pretty Belinda who ignited the crowd. Ever the party animal she schmoozed her not inconsiderable assets around the dancefloor to the Rolling Stones number 'Hard Headed Woman' (very apt) which got the rest onto their feet. Ambush Alley was suddenly alive with jiving geriatrics.

Sissel, the Norwegian Sizzle, started wiggling in places other lesser beings don't even have places. Cheryl did a sophisticated dance that could easily have been translated into an Andrew Lloyd Webber stage spectacular. Pierre missed a particularly difficult spin move and ended up in the shrubbery. Joy and Paul elected to do the London Jive of the Sixties which had the Hip-Hop enthusiasts applauding in awe. Jackie and Sue were seen shimmying in a dance obviously emanating in some polar region. Elaine, true to form danced on a table sending drinks flying all over the place. All the while the Chairman of Luigi's on Ambush Alley, Major Bill Brady, was seen patrolling the perimeter of the dance floor donned in khakis and bearing a pith helmet and Zeiss binoculars. Brenda and Steph added class to the proceedings by performing a Viennese Waltz which, to the strains of 'Hard Headed Woman', was an improvisation of epic proportions. Bryan did his usual Pakistani fire-walk routine while Russell walked around the dancefloor taking phone numbers. Ryno and Leslie did some close dancing which got Bob the Builder a little steamy. Chris insisted on performing his Boa Dance which had been banned at other venues and caused the Chairman, at least a while, to observe developments closely through his binoculars. Colleen was the epitome of style and class as she danced the two-step with a beaming Colin.

The songs changed, the tempo slowed, partners changed and Ambush Alley was alive with memories, bonhomie and Unbelievable, who had been an attentive host all evening.

Just then Officers of the Metro Police burst onto the scene. In a volley of accusations, threats, outbursts and finger-pointing it soon became clear that elements of the ruling party were not happy with colonial celebrations. In addition, complaints had been laid by the Russian and Chinese Embassies who felt that the British had had their turn at colonizing Africa.

Sadly, Jeff, Ambush Alley, Freedom, White Mischief, Fun and Democracy were closed down that night.

The jolly old revelers shuffled mournfully to their villas and homesteads never to return.

Jeff suffered a stroke later that night leaving him today a crippled mute.



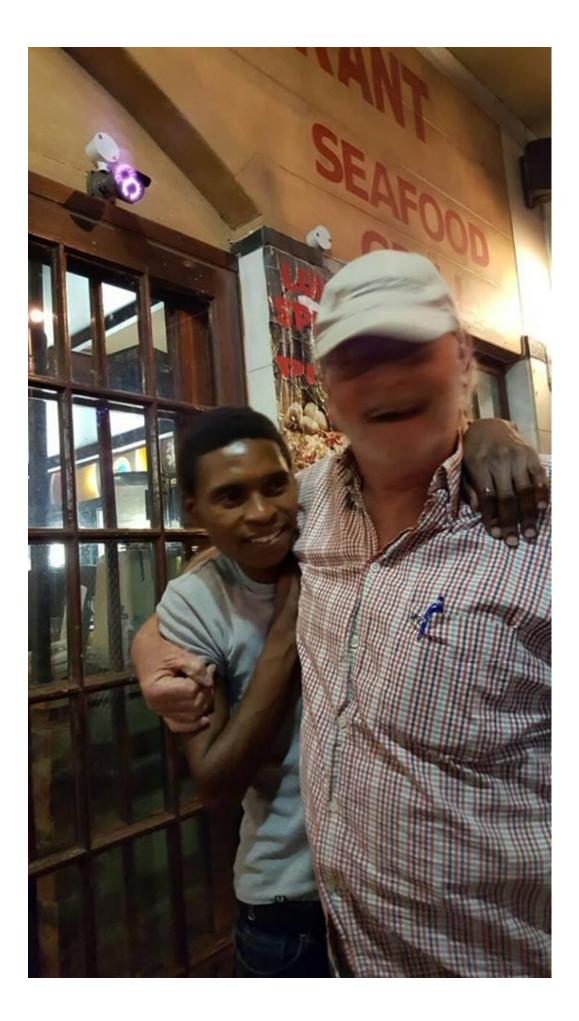
Colin Maclean, the elder statesman in the Umhlanga Village arranged a Farewell Party for me at Luigi's on Ambush Alley which was attended by thirty-five of the Locals. Apologies were delivered for Pete Robinson, Sue Garson and Francois Reyneke who were all travelling on business











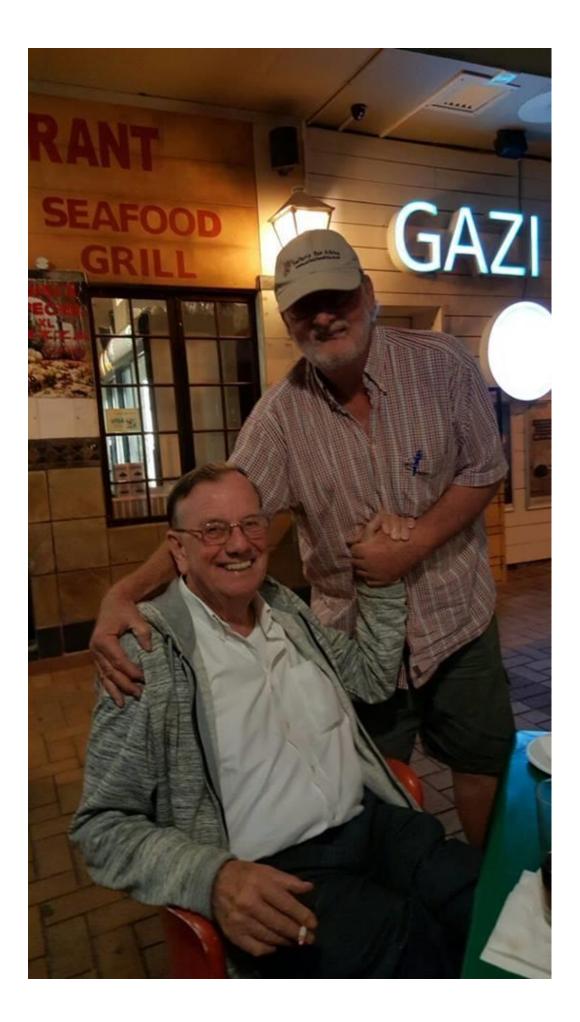








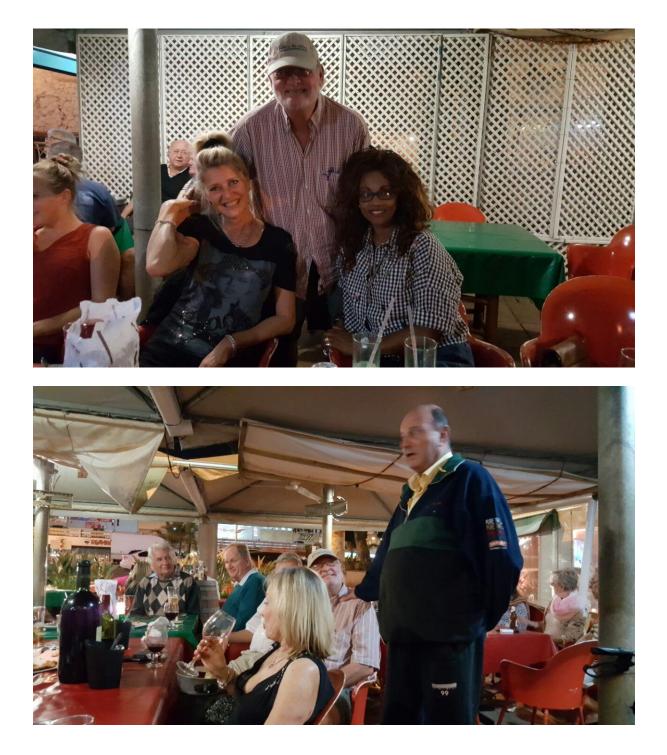










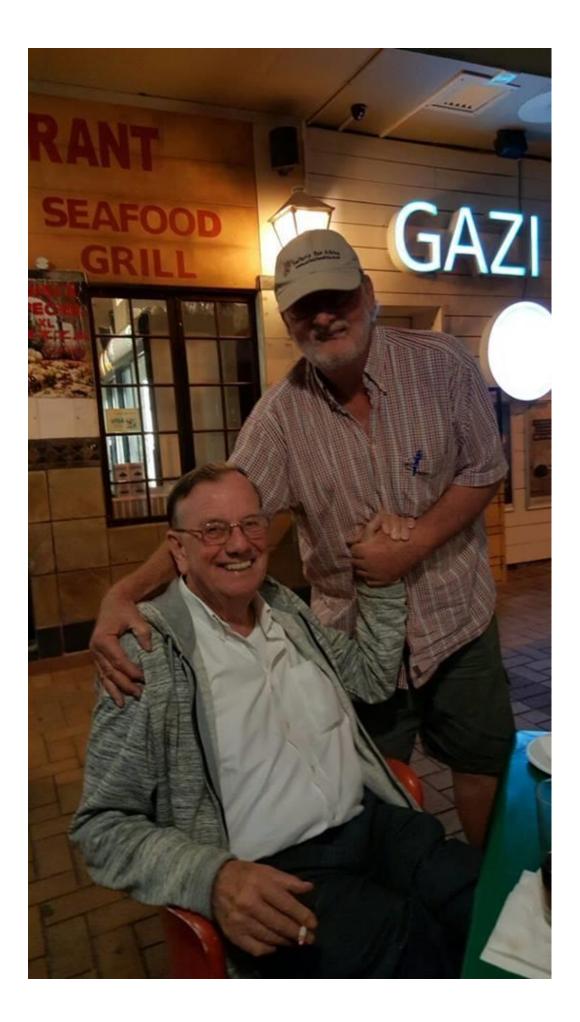












FAMILY

JENNIFER

Devout Catholic and St Dominic's Academy Matriculant she is the ex-wife of Bryan and the Mother of Ryan, Darryn and Devon. Married to Bryan for twenty-eight years, she was in that time an x-ray spectroscopist for Goldfields Mining Laboratories and De Beers Laboratories, a Wimpy Bar restaurant owner, a bookkeeper and a house mum. Today she is grandmother to Bjorn, Dakota, Gabriel, Holly, Damian, Aryn, Ewin and Joshua.



Bryan,

I question how we outsiders - loving friends - can contribute in a literal sense when we read the beautiful, propriety love expressed by your family.

You are loved by your former corporate *Coca Cola* colleagues, the 'village', 'sporting' and 'passing friends – more than you know.

However, nothing compares to the roaring love expressed by your blood.

It breaks my heart as a Marist Brothers Man to acknowledge your Christian Brothers nobility.... (!).

It is made easier by observing true love as expressed by your offspring.

Ignore your children at/to your extreme distress.

I know how much you love living in Umhlanga but life is fleeting Sir – think on these things.

Personally, you have really enriched my life (...how I hate telling a CBC man that!) and I must tell you that - as your family and true friends keep telling you – you are loved.

Respond accordingly – life expects nothing less.

Your family loves you.

So, do your friends. Garson



Hi Dad,

We have had several emails from concerned friends of yours over the last few weeks - painting a bleak picture of your health, accommodation and finances.

You and I suffer from the same weakness, I think: pride – and sometimes we can hold onto this in the wrong arenas. I am going to relinquish mine – and beg you to please come and stay with us. I don't want to remember my father as a far-off figure who faded away in the night, a province away. Why don't you come and stay with us instead? You can write your books and articles, help Summer and I with our businesses, continue to service your clients remotely, spend time building a relationship with your grandkids, heal and recover physically... and leave your mark on this family as the patriarch and beloved father/grandfather who left us with his legacy of wit and wisdom, rather than a character in a shady village a lifetime away.

There is space for you in all our homes – and we would really LOVE to have you as a part of our daily lives. We've all discussed this – and all of us feel the same way. It would be so fantastic to be able to see you every day and spend the weekends celebrating the blessings of family which The Lord has given us.

Please?

Hey pops,

Ryan has hit the nail on the head and whilst I don't think I could compete linguistically I'd like to throw my plea in too and say that we really, really want and need you to come and stay with all of us so that we can help in any way we can and ensure that you're happy, healthy and close to family.

Love,

Hi Dad.

Ilze and I couldn't agree more. The scare that we're having with Ilze's dad has really hit home to me how important it is to spend as much time with family as possible.

It breaks my heart to think that, Heaven forbid, the worst may happen and Joshua might grow up not knowing either of his Grandfather's so I want to add my voice to the plea that you come up and stay with us. Our family needs to be together to help each other through tough times...and the family isn't complete without you.

Lots of Love, Ilze and Devon.

















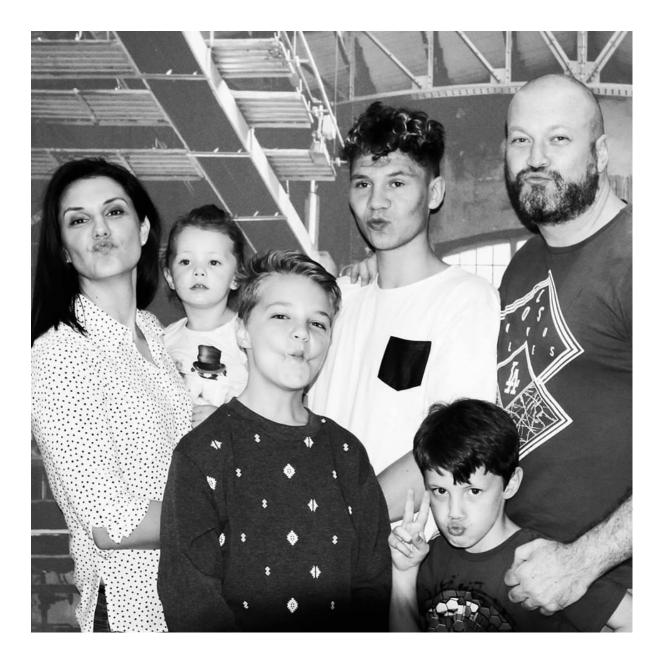




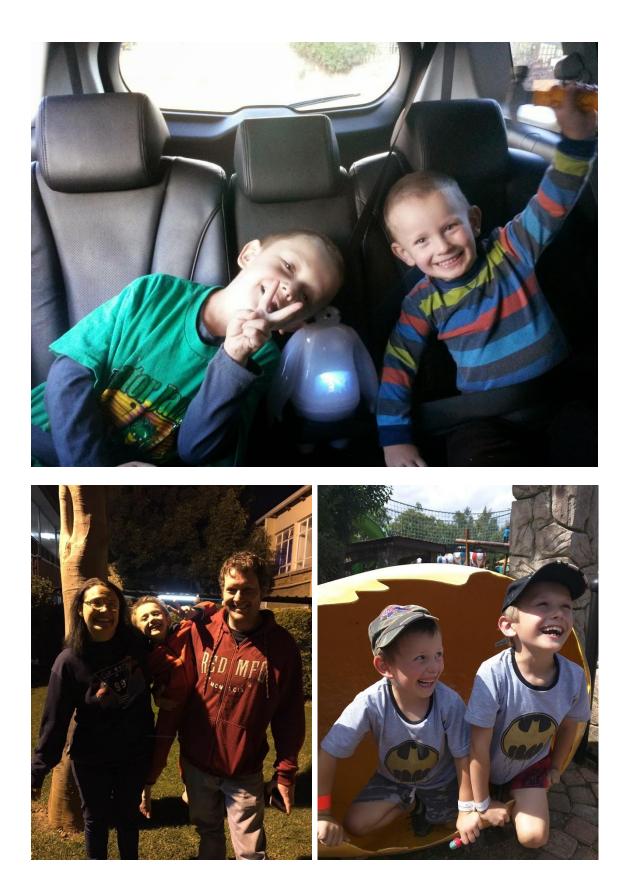
















FRIENDS

JENNY ELKINGTON



She is a very attractive lady with a bubbly personality. At the same time, she does not suffer fools easily. She is loads of fun and smart too and is a hoot to be around. She is also a dynamic businesswoman who runs a successful guest house in La Lucia where guests are treated like royalty. You can book directly at Bella Vista Guest House, La Lucia 083 703 5750.

Jenny has the looks and personality to grow the business in the future and has plans in the pipeline to increase the number of suites on offer. She has enjoyed a long relationship with her soul mate, the author of Ambush Alley, who treats her and their friendship with enormous respect. She maintains that her rich, financial executive son is her major accomplishment to date.

She is an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.



PIERRE WINTERBACH

Pierre is a world traveller and outspoken critic of the current governing party in South Africa. He is known to be a friend of the legendary Delarey and socialises with members of the Klu Klux Klan. His height and right hook earned him a place in the Sharks rugby line-up in former years and accounts for his stumbling gait today. He only takes instruction from his bright and successful better half, Cheryl, with whom he is constantly in trouble. Pierre is a frequent flier and lands often in Turkey where he is remembered for his regular trashing of local bougainvillea plants. He acts as an undercover agent for the Stellenbosch white capital mafia and has effectively infiltrated the ISIS organization using his clever disguises. He seldom can remember where his car is

parked and often finds it parked in his garage at home. He is not comfortable with this Uber thing yet.

He is an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

DAWN BUSH



Dawn is a Stock Exchange pundit, wine taster of distinction and grandmother to the rich and famous. Known as the black widow in some quarters she is instantly recognisable by her outrageous giggle and laugh routine. She is an original member of the Angelo's Ladies Club and is a frequent flier to exotic places. Her family despairs of her bohemian lifestyle and are constantly trying to clip her wings. Prefers the company of the younger set and is sometimes spotted downing shooters with her errant grandchildren. She runs a successful Facebook Campaign and is seldom seen without her face buried in the latest share tips or

Facebook gossip.

She is an executive of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

BRYAN BRITTON

He is the author of this piece of literary nonsense. He was once an accountant but has since been proven to be better at carousing and bull-dusting. He plies his trade



these days on Ambush Alley in the vain hope of a little friendship and a free drink. He is tolerated by most of the inhabitants of the village because of his reputed, but never proven, connection to the Broederbond, Mafia and Sea Point Girl Guides Troop. He frequently arranges impromptu meetings at Luigi's on Ambush Alley for which minutes are rarely kept. He is a long time soulmate of Jenny Elkington whom he convinces himself is a reincarnation of the actress Meg Ryan. Another of his daytime delusions is that he once played professional

football. Seeing his shuffling and uncertain gait, members are in serious doubt about the veracity of this claim. He maintains that his only achievement in life is his three smart and successful sons in Gauteng.

He was reluctantly elected as an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley by a quorum of disgruntled, compromised members and a split vote.

SUE GARSON



She is still classically beautiful after giving birth to four talented and gorgeous daughters. Her blue eyes, high cheekbones and blonde hair have been inherited by one of her daughters, Olivia, who is now famous as an international swim suit edition super model. Sue is the energetic owner of 'Safaris for Africa' a specialist travel agency offering tours throughout the Southern African sub-continent. Born to a financial mogul father, Sue at once packs beauty and business brains into a tall, willowy frame which makes her the centre of interest of the rich and famous in Umhlanga Rocks. A voracious

appetite for chips and Italian Kisses allows her, on occasion, to leave her teetotaller fetish and whirl uncontrollably in dance on the Ambush Alley paving.

She is an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

JEFF BAXTER



He was an aging rock musician with a burgeoning following in Umhlanga Rocks, Maputo, Vereeniging and Denysville. He is known also as the Willy Nelson of Ambush Alley because of his inexplicable predilection with country music. Patrons avoid discussions about the war, the cost of car repairs and past sexual conquests as these topics tend to delay Jeff's appearance on stage. Seldom in a pleasant mood he is nevertheless regarded as an icon in the Umhlanga Village and is a pioneer of much of the debauchery occurring in the alley. He enjoys a symbiotic relationship with Papa

Paparides, the owner of Luigi's on Ambush Alley. Recently Jeff was the victim of a stroke from which he was rehabilitating and the executive, management, patrons, fans and members of Luigi's all hoped for his speedy recovery and return to the musical spotlight at the now famous Ambush Alley venue. Sadly Jeff was forced to undergo an amputation of his left leg and later passed away on April 15, 2017.

He is missed by all.

He was an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

CHRIS VAN HUYSSTEEN

Property mogul, bed and breakfast owner, business guru, party favourite and amateur pole dancer Chris is, although claiming permanent retirement, the busiest



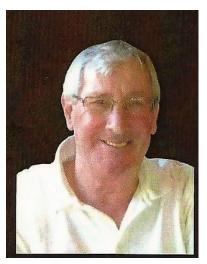
opportunist in the village. Often seen scurrying between high powered meetings, shopping errands for his wife or frequent cocktail appointments, which occur all day long, he is a blur of activity in the Umhlanga Village. Exhausted from his frenetic endeavours, he was once found asleep in an empty chest freezer. He is often mistaken for Dudley Moore, the intrepid star of the

movie 'Arthur'. He travels the world frenetically, often and is sometimes found in two places at the same time. The man is an energetic giant. Chris is also a gadget fanatic owning every conceivable device that you can fly in, ride on, ride in, communicate with, speak to dubious third parties on or mix cocktails in. His gorgeous wife just shakes her head resignedly. The lady should be knighted.

Due to the size of his liquor bills he was unanimously elected vice-chairman of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

BILL BRADY

Author of six World War Two history books Bill is the retired former vice chairman, then chairman of the South African Military History Society – Kwa Zulu Natal.



Formerly the Works Manager at Coca-Cola, Bill never goes near the stuff but prefers a wee dram (sometimes more, sometimes a lot more). He can conduct a tour at Spioenkop without spilling a drop and is a raconteur of some distinction. Bill was an erudite confidante of the famous and late war historian Ken Gillings. Although resident in South Africa for over fifty years he has never lost his Clydesdale Shipyards brogue which totally confounds the Zimbabwean Waitrons at Luigi's and most of the patrons. He is presided over by wife Kathleen who allows him out to play with the boys in the Village on occasion. Bill always says Kathleen left

Ireland and came to Scotland to find the right man and got that wrong too.

Bill was unanimously elected as Chairman of Luigi's on Ambush Alley in December 2016.

SISSEL ALFREDSEN

Sexy Sissel, the Author's Norwegian sister from another mother, brings Nordic glamour and flight attendant courtesy to the village. An expert chef, gravlax



specialist and go-go dancer of repute Sissel puts the sizzle into every party and is a favourite with local tipplers along the Ambush Alley strip. When not wiggling and jiving she is a highly qualified guide for visitors to South African shores and sometimes leads large Scandinavian tour groups to the Drakensberg resorts, KwaZulu game lodges and Cape Vineyards. She travels frequently to her native Norway but has lost her Nordic accent speaking today in fluent and wellmodulated English. Mother of a delightful son and daughter, Sissel brings an international, poised and sophisticated cosmopolitan atmosphere to proceedings

in the alley.

She is an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

CHERYL WINTERBACH

Long suffering wife of the Sheik of Arabique, Pierre Winterbach, she represents the brains and beauty in the family. She often modestly overlooks Pierre's shortcomings



and just conscientiously drives the camel train from oasis to oasis while Pierre wanders aimlessly in the rear of the procession. An executive in the motor industry she does not abide fools easily and many members of Luigi's on Ambush Alley bear unhealed wounds from a scrap with the feisty Cheryl. In party mode she is a pleasure to be around and adds to the bohemian and hedonistic mayhem often encountered in the alley. She often steers Pierre home as he suffers from posttraumatic stress developed in Border Wars, bar fights and loose scrums.

She is an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

CHRISTOS PAPARIDES

Greek owner of Luigi's on Ambush Alley regrets daily his decision to purchase this Italian restaurant with the only genuine Italian food being the Italian Kisses ordered in abundance by Sue Garson. The ostensibly Italian restaurant is the only one in the Umhlanga Village that boasts a Greek owner, a Piazza Oven, a country and western singer and a dance floor. A large hole in the roof of the restaurant (where once grew a shady and gnarled fig tree that blew over in a storm) serves now as summer air conditioning and allows storm water to flow freely through the eatery as an



attractive water feature. The restaurant has become the clubhouse of the executives of Luigi's on Ambush Alley and was recently awarded the 'Unbelievable Red Wine Consumers Award' for the highest per capita red wine consumption in South Africa. Papa, as he is affectionately known, remains up-beat about most things and liberally dispenses love, free food, free drink and largesse in the tradition of a true Don. Although not expected to kiss his ring Luigi's on Ambush Alley members nevertheless afford the Don the highest respect, much affection and even settle

their bills on occasion as a sign of good faith.

He is the Don of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

COLIN MACLEAN

An elder statesman, he is known to dispense valuable advice and knowledge to mainly female constituents of the Umhlanga Village. While keeping his tongue glib



with lashings of red wine he has helped many a wayward lass with new direction in life. A sometime resident and joint property owner in the Seychelles, he often wings it to that exotic island to tend the family property portfolio. Known to some as Mr Pringle because of his vast collection of designer shirts, he dabbles successfully in the futures markets. When not advising the lovely Belinda or savouring red wine on Ambush Alley, he curries favour and appears to be a

favourite with the girls of the Kung Thai restaurant. Colin often exhibits impeccable taste in wine, woman and not song but food. He is contactable only through his attorney.

He is a life member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

BELINDA KING

This lady is a handful. When meeting her for the first time visitors to Umhlanga are advised to wear an asbestos suit and goggles. Extremely pretty, funny, sarcastic,



bright and a perpetual tease, you had better bring your 'A' game if you wish to survive an encounter with this hot local in the village. I once saw her verbally savage a local attorney leaving the legal eagle looking like a simpering flightless, featherless chicken. She has an industrious daughter who manages a restaurant in the village and who is regularly found helping victims scorched by her mother. Her patron, the honourable elder Colin Maclean, attempts constantly to advise this livewire of fun on etiquette and good social behaviour. This fruitless endeavour certainly accounts for Colin's several new wrinkles.

She is a stalwart of the area and can be relied upon to add sizzle to any otherwise boring party. Invite her at your peril.

She is an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

LESLIE LLOYD



She is the widow of the well-loved late Pat Lloyd, a Springbok fisherman and veteran of the Umhlanga Village. Prior to his untimely death he was an enthusiastic tippler on Ambush Alley. Leslie has carried on Pat's tradition but as yet has no fish named after her. A serious businesswoman in her own right she is the mega-mogul of a furniture manufacturer and retailer in the village. Leslie runs her life with precision using a neatly hand-written diary containing daily 'to do' lists. Better leave town if you do not fulfil a task on one of her lists. She is an enthusiastic member of the 'Angelo's Ladies Club' and keen bridge player. Leslie has great empathy with the younger talent in the village and is known to be a keen supporter of the spritely Bob the Builder and heartthrob Ryno Walker. Frequent traveller her preferred mode of transport is by international luxury liner.

She is an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

JACKIE DALANGER

Jackie is well read, well-travelled, well informed and well just pleasant to be with. She has learned that empty barrels make most noise and does not cast pearls before



the swine. She makes polite well thought out discussion with parties who can be entrusted with the wellresearched dispensed facts. She is currently teaching Gert Lacher the importance of listening and the entire village wishes Jackie success with that particular project. Being dextrous she can drink both white and red wine with equal aplomb. Lunches discretely and often and can always be relied for restaurant recommendations. She consorts with the vagrant author of this book and does not allow him to wander too far off the reservation.

She is an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

кім ноок

Kim is a beautiful and fascinating lady with wide indigo eyes, curvy body, flashing smile and sweeping black hair that falls across part of her flawless face. She has



mesmerised many a keen, unsuspecting and panting young man in her time. As if God had not endowed her with enough goodies, He had thrown in a caring nature and loads of smarts. She was a budding creative author, dynamic mom, gorgeous friend, astute bookkeeper and she beguiled all in a charming. While her brother from another mother, Bryan Britton, was searching for an Australian Wine Farmer to light up Kim's life, she went and found an Austrian mega-mogul by herself. Is anyone's daughter looking to be

introduced to a distraught, rich Aussie farmer?

She is a country member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley

PAUL HART

Retired international market trader Paul still follows the international press daily. He commutes between Cypress and Umhlanga Rocks depending on the weather being experienced in each of the respective resorts. He is a food gourmet but does not cook as a rule. He does however own the biggest library of cook books on the African continent. He has a season ticket for the bar at the 'Steak 'n Ale' and rarely misses a round. Deluded patrons who say that he is losing his hearing are just plain



wrong as I have heard him correcting grammar bloopers made by local and international television sports casters. He dines finely and often and is the scourge of waitrons, restaurant managers and owners with his culinary demands. This could be yet another case of the British bringing refined European culinary knowledge to the last outpost of the British Empire.

He is an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley

COLLEEN PRINGLE

She is a lady in the truest sense. She demonstrates fine breeding being at once refined, independent, cultured, intelligent and loyal. Oh if I was richer and younger.



Colleen is a business mogul in the village with many respected connections. She is the owner of an upmarket art gallery which judging by the quality of Colleen's classy outfits and exquisite jewellery, also dabbles occasionally in hot properties. She tolerates the lesser bred members of the executive of Luigi's on Ambush Alley and is a patient and faithful friend to many. When sufficiently motivated can embezzle wine with the best of them. Almost forgot that she has a lovely sense of humour and laughs with but not at her counterparts. She is also a member of the Saturday Club at the George where she gives the boys a run for their money.

She is an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley

GERT LACHER



Gert is German by birth but has mastered the English language impressively. He is a manufacturer and marketer of fine jewellery and is the village's go to man in these matters. Has a son upon whom he dotes and makes his son his number one priority. He is currently taking lessons from Jackie on when and when not to speak. This is still a work in progress at the moment. Is the source of widely diverse information on the music scene and the various musical genres. He is not to be challenged on this

subject as those doubting his knowledge invariably end up buying copious rounds of beer.

He is an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

RAYNO WALKER

The 'Walking Groin' in the village, Ryno took over the title from Russell 'The Love Muscle' when the latter was sadly retired from racing due to a strained right fetlock.



Despite his advanced years Ryno chases anything rich and female. He was once almost run over in Chartwell Drive whilst pursuing a German Shepherd bitch sitting in the passenger seat of a BMW Cabriolet. He is the Don Juan of the Umhlanga Village. Despite his advanced years he keeps his frame lean on a diet of mulberry leaves, mopani worms and Amstel Light. Besides being an ideal dance partner Ryno shows an astonishing empathy for nature and Zulu culture which led to him being a game ranger for a number of years. He is fully conversant in isiZulu. Not known as a big spender he is nevertheless valued as a quest in the village for his knowledge of KwaZulu Natal fauna, flora and natural history. He is frequently spotted weaving his way home to Umdloti with his faithful dog Holly at the controls of his pre-war motor cycle.

He is an executive member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

BRENDA QUATEMBER

She is the much-loved Grand Duchess of Umhlanga Rocks. She is equally at home in Chanel dripping diamonds or in a safari suit toting a rifle. She undertakes mammoth



journeys to far flung destinations on her own. Her bravery is astounding. When not bringing down elephants needing culling she is handing out prizes at St Benedict's College in Bedfordview. I often wish that I had a grandmother like her. A founder member of the Angelo's Ladies Club she is a long-time friend of Steph. She was recently honoured by the mortals on Ambush Alley.

She is now an honorary life member of the executive of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

STEPH JAMES

Former major of the Umhlanga she has retired to the outskirts of the village from whence she departs daily for her various assignations, luncheons and visitations. She



is always chic, well-groomed and fashionable. Pundits speculate that there is a new man in her life. She meets regularly with her Angelo's friends who all remain tight lipped. Friend Brenda is no help either saying merely that the whole affair is sub judice. All attempts to follow Steph have proved fruitless and she even gave the slip to John, the village's only private detective. The author will attempt to discover the truth about Steph's secret love life before publication of this book. Watch this space.

She is an honorary life member of the executive of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

FRANCOIS REYNEKE

Resident in Umhlanga Rocks for work purposes, Francois owns several residences in Cape Town where his family lives. A highly qualified Metallurgist and Businessman he is one of the few villagers earning an honest living. Francois spends 97% of his time travelling between Meyerton, Gauteng, Umhlanga Rocks, Cape Town and Mauritius and the remaining 3% at Luigi's on Ambush Alley. Once a famous long distance cyclist, the pressure of work has forced him to hang up his cycling helmet. Father of a delightful son and daughter at Stellenbosch University, Francois says that he brings his hard-earned income through the front door each month just to feed the bulldozer at the back door.

He is an honorary life member of the executive of Luigi's on Ambush Alley

GREG GARSON

Travel Guru, historian, reveller of note and partner of the gorgeous blond model Sue, Greg can, in an instant, turn any polite discussion into a party of staggering proportions. Host to the Ghandi family from India on their annual sabbatical to South Africa, to visit commemorative and historical Mahatma Ghandi sites, he is an erudite travel organizer and travel guide.

Sadly, Greg's permission to publish further details and photographs about himself could not be obtained by this author. Greg sites infringement of the National Secrets Act, possible interest from the CIA, possible patrimony suits and retribution by disgruntled former customers as reasons for wishing to remain incognito.

Greg is an honorary life member of the executive of Luigi's on Ambush Alley

CLIFF ROSS

The Mad Mauritian with the French accent. He got off on the wrong foot in the village when he asked all to his arse warming party. Nobody pitched. Has since been found to be a red-blooded male and has been happily married to Belle for many years. Marketing mogul in the motor industry most of his life he now dabbles in a DSTV Agency in Mauritius. Partner of Francois Reyneke in the mobile banking business, he is often seen at Luigi's on Ambush Alley attending one of Britton's agendaless meetings. Spends the summer in Mauritius and the winters in South Africa and still contends that Umhlanga Rocks is the finest spot in the world.

Cliffie is an honorary life member of the executive of Luigi's on Ambush Alley.

UNBELIEVABLE PINOTAGE



A familiar sight on the tables in the village this refreshing elixir is bound to please the most demanding palate.

In the glass: Unbelievable Dry Red Wine is a fine, bright garnet-red color with a semi-translucent firm core going out into a light garnet rim definition with medium viscosity.

On the nose: There is a lovely scent of freshly crushed brambleberries, raspberries, red cherries and cranberry fruit emanating from the bowl with light hints of smoked wood, allspice and phenolic character underlying, then just touches of fruit-driven mineralogy and toast.

On the palate: The wine is a rounded and mellow version of what I normally taste in pinotages and is pleasantly fruity

with lots of crushed cranberry and cherry, raspberry coulis and touches of currants. The mid-palate is where the smoke and wood come out and integrate nicely with the fruit, leading to a most pleasant finish that just lingers with a hint of barbecue sauce. Odds and ends: Unbelievable Dry Red Wine is without a question the simplest form of labeling ever employed on a wine bottle. There is no label affixed to the bottle, just a neck tag with the pertinent information, making it easy to find in the store. And the name is a setup for expectations, if there ever was one. The biggest question for me was whether it lived up to its name, and taking all things into consideration, including price, it actually does. It is produced by a winery with the unlikely name of Mount Vernon in Paarl, which is one of the top-producing appellations in the Cape Region of South Africa. The wine is made from the native South African hybrid grape variety pinotage. You can probably guess that it is a cross between pinot noir and another grape, which in this case is cinsault. Pinotage wines tend to be very smoky and full of bacon character, but Unbelievable remains on the fruitier side, which is why I liked it a lot. It is a nice medium-bodied red wine that can be enjoyed at this time of the year just by the glass or with some good cheeses and breads. Drink it now through 2017.

Unbelievable Pinotage is the founding member of Luigi's on Ambush Alley

WORK

After my stroke, I registered with the South African Revenue Services (SARS) as a Tax Practitioner (Registration Number F3777CC) in order to make up for the shortfall between my salary and the disability benefit that I was receiving (roughly 35% less).

In addition, I sought to write Business Plans for aspirant entrepreneurs seeking funding. This endeavour proved to be lucrative but not regular. It did however add a considerable amount to my annual earnings.

There was also the odd set of books that I maintained for a monthly fee.

This arrangement continued successfully until October 2013. At that time, I received a visit at home from the auditors of Momentum Life who announced that:

- I would have to repay all monies earned in excess of my disability pension for the preceding nine years. This was because the Disability Pension Rules did not permit extraneous income to be received by beneficiaries of a pension (notwithstanding that such pension was initially 35% lower than my income at the time of the stroke).
- I would henceforward be prohibited from earning any income in excess of my disability benefit.
- It is also worth noting that throughout the currency of the disability pension, annual increases were limited to 5%. Inflation throughout that period probably averaged closer to 10%.

This effectively reduced the amount of savings which I could accumulate to October 2015 when the disability pension terminated.

Fortunately, I could persuade Momentum Life that forcing a disabled pensioner to repay past earnings was inhumane, perverse and worth a story in the national press.

So, life after sixty-five was always going to be a race to the line between my accumulated savings and death.

HEALTH

The date as I write this is April 24, 2017. Almost thirteen years have elapsed since I suffered a stroke and, as predicted by the physicians, my condition has degenerated and worsened alarmingly.

Today is especially bad in that my one functioning limb, my right leg, has been affected by gout under the kneecap. I am thus hobbling about the apartment in great pain and using my three-wheeled walker.

The damage from the stroke has resulted in wasted musculature in my body generally but especially noticeable on the left side. My left hand is all but useless and has permanent stiffness in the fingers and constant 'pins and needles'. My left foot has two iceberg abysses located in the heel and ball of the foot and is also affected by diabetic condition known as crow's foot. My left leg from ankle to hip is almost entirely lame.

I have the condition known as frozen shoulder in both my left and right shoulders.

In attempting to free the constriction in my shoulders using Omega 3 and Salmon Oil the resultant release of calcium has played havoc with my left arm which remains swollen, painful and almost useless. Happily, the frozen right shoulder is now unfrozen.

I have arthritis in my right wrist and my right hand is swollen with little feeling. My right knee, which had the cartilage removed in the late sixties, is frequently affected by gout attacks.

I have a hernia in my stomach region which requires an operation.

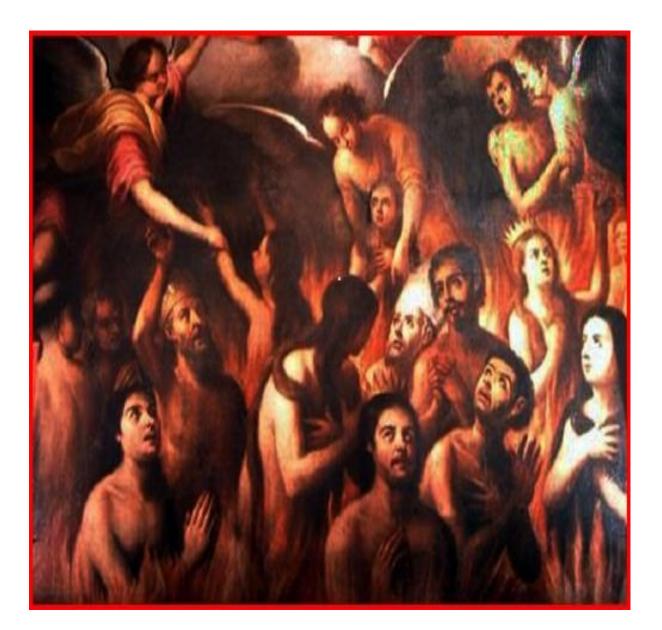
I have no medical aid support and admission to a government hospital is likely to bring death from some new alien infection.

The nerve endings in the underside of both feet are dead making balance difficult and I have to rely on sight and ear fluid to maintain balance. My long-term memory is still pretty good but short term recall is worsening by the day.

Lack of the funds has caused me to stop purchasing prescribed chronic medication at R1, 000 per month so my diabetes, arthritis, heart, kidney and blood conditions are receiving no remedial assistance.

The diabetes continues to play havoc with me eyes.

It is for these reasons that I am beginning to wonder about the existence of a pre-death purgatory here on earth.



FAITH

Yours is the earth and all that is in it and with a healthy belief in God you can achieve any dream. I have always firmly believed in a greater



force for power, а qood, а heavenly father, a shepherd, a quide, a protector, a spiritual being – in short God. My personal is experience that prayers are answered though not always in a way that we humans appreciate. But answered thev are

most certainly. We do not inherit religion and faith. It is something which slowly evolves through trial and error over time. In order to get started however you need first to *believe* in God and then *be true to* your belief.

Your patience and perseverance will be rewarded as surely as God is my witness.

Have faith.

The Catholic Activist Ammon Hennancy (1893-1970) once had this to say:

'Love without courage and wisdom is sentimentality, as with the ordinary church member.

Courage without love and wisdom is foolhardiness, as with the ordinary soldier.

Wisdom without love and courage is cowardice, as with the ordinary intellectual.

But the one who has love, courage and wisdom, moves the world'

INSPIRATION

Love's Been Good to Me

Frank Sinatra

I have been a rover I have walked alone Hiked a hundred highways Never found a home

Still in all I'm happy The reason is, you see Once in a while along the way Love's been good to me

There was a girl in Denver Before the summer storm Oh, her eyes were tender Oh, her arms were warm

And she could smile away the thunder Kiss away the rain Even though she's gone away You won't hear me complain

I have been a rover I have walked alone Hiked a hundred highways Never found a home

Still in all I'm happy The reason is, you see Once in a while along the way Love's been good to me

There was a girl in Portland Before the winter chill We used to go a-courtin' Along October...

My Way

Frank Sinatra

And now, the end is near And so I face the final curtain My friend, I'll say it clear I'll state my case, of which I'm certain

I've lived a life that's full I've travelled each and every highway But more, much more than this I did it my way

Regrets, I've had a few But then again, too few to mention I did what I had to do And saw it through without exemption

I planned each charted course Each careful step along the byway And more, much more than this I did it my way

Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew When I bit off more than I could chew But through it all, when there was doubt I ate it up and spit it out I faced it all and I stood tall And did it my way

I've loved, I've laughed and cried I've had my fill my share of losing And now, as tears subside I find it all so amusing

To think I did all that And may I say - not in a shy way Oh no, oh no, not me I did it my way

For what is a man, what has he got If not himself, then he has naught To say the things he truly feels And not the words of one who kneels The record shows I took the blows And did it my way Yes, it was my way

If

Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you Are losing theirs and blaming it on you; If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, But make allowance for their doubting too: If you can wait and not be tired by waiting, Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies, Or being hated don't give way to hating, And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master; If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim, If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster And treat those two impostors just the same:. If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools, Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken, And stoop and build'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss, And lose, and start again at your beginnings, And never breathe a word about your loss: If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew To serve your turn long after they are gone, And so hold on when there is nothing in you Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch, If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you, If all men count with you, but none too much: If you can fill the unforgiving minute With sixty seconds' worth of distance run, Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!

That's life

Frank Sinatra

That's life (that's life) that's what people say You're riding high in April Shot down in May But I know I'm gonna change that tune When I'm back on top, back on top in June

I said, that's life (that's life) and as funny as it may seem Some people get their kicks Stompin' on a dream But I don't let it, let it get me down 'Cause this fine old world it keeps spinnin' around

I've been a puppet, a pauper, a pirate A poet, a pawn and a king I've been up and down and over and out And I know one thing Each time I find myself flat on my face I pick myself up and get back in the race

That's life (that's life) I tell ya, I can't deny it I thought of quitting, baby But my heart just ain't gonna buy it And if I didn't think it was worth one single try I'd jump right on a big bird and then I'd fly

I've been a puppet, a pauper, a pirate A poet, a pawn and a king I've been up and down and over and out And I know one thing Each time I find myself layin' flat on my face I just pick myself up and get back in the race

That's life (that's life) that's life And I can't deny it Many times I thought of cuttin' out but my heart won't buy it But if there's nothing shakin' come here this July I'm gonna roll myself up in a big ball and die My, my

SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUES

There was for me an early glimpse into the machinations of politics. I had just returned from London, where my attempt to raise venture capital for my South African based business was greeted on Bond Street with derision. I was shown television footage (not seen on South African televisions) of South Africa burning, riots in the streets and police everywhere. I was forced to look internally for venture capital opportunities and funding.



'A certain Dr Huishamen from Port Elizabeth sought out the Venture Finance Company to find capital for various projects to which he had access. The dynamic medical practitioner, turned property developer, had previously been instrumental in the construction of the prominent

Greenacres development in Port Elizabeth and purportedly had much sway with the old Transkein Development Corporation and then Transkei Homeland Government. He was an intrepid entrepreneur and after several meetings at our offices and the watering hole the 'Bulls & Bears' - a hop, step and jump away in the Sandton Sun - he proposed that we inspect his several projects in Mossel Bay, Umtata, Butterworth and Port Elizabeth first hand.

Using a private executive plane, we were able to traverse the entire region, sometimes landing at recognised airports and, at yet other times, landing on all but the roads. The excursion was for me a fascinating glimpse into the affairs of the independent black democracy created within the bounds of Apartheid dominated South Africa.



We first met with Homeland Leader General Bantu Holomiso. His offices were in the only multi storied building in Umtata. His secretary was an impeccably attired army captain sporting an automatic rifle.

The affable General Bantu Holomiso, now a party leader and respected member of the South African Parliament.

General Holomiso turned out to be both smart and approachable. He

showed a very good business brain and delivered his agenda in a warm and

humorous manner. The visit promised several new, interesting and lucrative ventures including a prominent site in central Umtata, in exchange for building a new soccer stadium for the budding Homeland. Does this not sound familiar?

Our next port of call was to Butterworth and the headquarters of ousted Paramount Chief Kaiser Matanzima. The facility lacked the garrison of brave, spear toting impis of my overactive imagination but was littered instead with the gutted shells of motor vehicles, vagrant chickens and shuffling, unsmiling subjects.

The meeting venue was intriguing. We sat in dilapidated chairs in what was obviously the lounge. We gazed up at a table and chairs, in what was clearly the dining room built at a much higher level. The dining room chairs were arranged to face the subjugated audience in the lounge. Next, a number of individuals, introduced by their portfolios, filed in to perch on the dining room chairs. The shadow Minister of Finance duly welcomed us and then introduced (the blare of



trumpets was missing) the Paramount Chief himself. And in strode Matanzima in full tribal regalia complete with feathers and skins.

avoided the sheer Ι craziness of the unfolding tableau by removing some non-existent lint from my sleeve. This drew a severe rebuke from the Paramount Chief himself who insisted that I gaze attentively at him on his dais (the dining room chair) at all times. I had never before been chastised by royalty, so I

naturally responded with great humility as any lowly financier should.

As a budding venture capitalist, it was a double blow. In raising the capital for Southern Africa, while the International Media was running bulletins on the necklacing and mayhem in that region, I had drawn derision and rebuke from European financiers. Now intended recipients were displaying similar scorn.

We saw evidence of Taiwanese Development Funding on our visit. It was visible in dry and untended agricultural lands and manifested itself in the many derelict tractors that littered the landscape. And in acres of frames for what obviously had been tunnel farming ventures and also in now defunct overhead watering systems. The pattern of Africa squandering resources and foreign aid lay sketched before us in a classic textbook microcosm. And the hungry eyes that peeped out at this scenario from dilapidated huts, told the old story of unstoppable corruption, lack of education and greed. Does any of this again sound all too familiar?

Writing this today I honestly believe that Nelson Mandela, because he was incarcerated and out of daily touch with his fellow African National Congress colleagues, never saw the avarice, greed and opportunism brewing in the bellies of his fellow objectors. These same post-Mandela kleptocrats are today sadly in charge of a nation on the road to ruin.



Sandton Sun Hotel



Lobby Sandton Sun

Later in our project we would again meet with the Paramount Chief at our Sandton offices. The Paramount Chief arrived in two white stretch limousines with his entire entourage. He forwent the usual lift access to our offices choosing instead access through the Sandton Hotel which boasted a spectacular escalator route. With much pomp, ceremony and waving to low bowing and ululating waiters and sweepers, the large entourage presented themselves at the meeting.

It was not a long meeting.

We had found that Transkeian properties freely offered as collateral for the development funding belonged, in fact, not to the Paramount Chief nor to the Transkeian Government but to other unsuspecting and reluctant minions in the kingdom. My co directors were also not impressed by the R50,000 fee demanded by the Paramount Chief for the pleasure of his company. So, to much low bowing



and ululating, the Paramount Chief and his shadow cabinet once more descended the escalator to their limousines, to be whisked off into the night.

Kaiser Daliwonga Matanzima was born in 1915 and became the Prime Minister of the first independent Black homeland in 1976. His brother, George, became the Minister of Justice. The International Community viewed the creation of the Transkei as being a publicity stunt of the Apartheid Regime and regarded it merely to be a Puppet State of racist South Africa.

He was a chief of the Thembu chiefdom and was Nelson Mandela's nephew by law and custom. He and Madiba were friends at the University of Fort Hare and both vied for the hand of Winnie Madikizela. However, in Matanzima accepting leadership of the Apartheid created Independent Black Transkei Homeland, he was labelled as a 'sell out' by Madiba. The two former friends never spoke to each other again. Madiba would later be jailed for twenty six years for these beliefs and his opposition to the Apartheid Regime. In 1979 Matanzima became State President and his brother George the Prime Minister of the Transkei. Despite minor investments from Israel and Taiwan the rest of the world refused to accept the Transkei's sovereignty and saw it



merely as a puppet state of the Apartheid regime in South Africa. Matanzima continued to be regarded as a traitor by Mandela and others true to the struggle for Democracy in South Africa.

In 1986, facing evidence held by the South African Government on crimes of corruption, Kaiser Matanzima was forced to retired from the Presidency. He was succeeded by his brother George, who in turn, was later arrested and interred overseas on charges of corruption. This movie is still popular today".

----- Extract from 'A Bridge Too Far' by Bryan Britton

This experience spurred my interest in African Kleptocracy and caused me to realize that it was only a matter of time before, despite being the most advanced nation on the African Continent, South Africa would become the fifty fourth decolonized state to slide into Kleptocracy.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

SOUTH AFRICA YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



In the introduction to this book we quoted John Ruskin, British social commentator (1819-1900) as saying: "Let us reform our schools and we shall need little reform necessary in our prisons". Unless you have been on an extended visit to Mars you will know that both of these institutions are under severe pressure in the not-so-new South Africa.

The prisons are overflowing. The justice system cannot cope. Offenders enjoy benign bail conditions because there is no room at the inn. This allows them to become repeat offenders without even being incarcerated. Our South African lives, Black, White, Coloured and Asian are worth less than a cell phone. Is this the life God planned for us? Do we ordinary South African citizens, Black, White, Coloured and Asian, deserve this?

I think not.

In a report on education, Jonathan Jansen recently said in a national newspaper: "A five-minute walk through the school and all South Africa's education problems are on display. The roof is rusted throughout; the toilets stink; litter is everywhere; one teacher is dozing inside a noisy class; and a number of children can be found drifting on a playground. On to the next school and things get worse. Children are outside washing

the cars of their teachers, and a number of adults occupy the school grounds, selling their wares. The school is literally falling apart, with huge holes in the ceiling of the room in which I am to speak. By the time we get to the final school the pattern is familiar; filthy grounds, lacklustre teachers, crumbling infrastructure and poor results".

As ordinary South African citizens, Black, White, Coloured and Asian, should we accept this appalling excuse for the education of our precious youth?

I think not.

A 15-month study of township youths' morality has concluded that most of them are good kids, but many are neglected. Adult guidance is what is missing from their part-schooled, part-parented lives. Sharlene Swartz, a fellow at the Human Sciences Research Council conducted the research at a school in Cape Town amongst pupils aged between 15 and 19 years. Swartz believes the moral makeup of township youth needs to be the focus of educational attention, and has called for innovative interventions by policy makers and educators.

Skollie Vuma, when interviewed in the study on his take on corruption, said: "If apartheid didn't affect my parents, then maybe we wouldn't be staying in that shack house... maybe if my parents were staying in the suburbs, I wouldn't know about those things (drinking, drugs and criminal behaviour) and I wouldn't see so many people smoking dagga".

Can you argue with that lost young South African's view? Young Vuma's plight is borne out by a recent survey, says Servaas van der Berg of the Department of Economics at Stellenbosch University. An analysis of the earnings of employed matriculants aged 20 to 24 showed that those from households headed by a parent *without* matric earned on

average R2,262 per month, while households *with* a matriculated head earned on average R4,512 per month. The correlation between education and relative poverty is plainly evident in this small sample.

Unisa's Bureau of Market Research in their report on personal income patterns and profiles says that there is a strong correlation between education and income levels. Adults with no schooling earn R50, 000 per year or less, while incomes between R300,000 and R500,000 per annum were earned by people with a secondary or tertiary qualification.

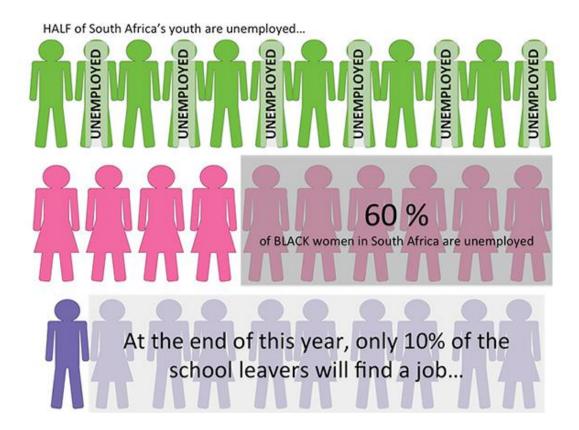
The survey further notes that South Africa ranked *last* among 45 countries in 2006 in terms of literacy and mathematics. Further, one white child in 10 and one black child in 1,000 achieves an A aggregate matriculation. How, in good conscience, are we as a country able to dream of an African Renaissance and spend billions of taxpayers' funds pursuing this frivolous ideal, *when we are last in the class?*

The Cape-based Centre for Higher Education and Transformation, together with the University of the Western Cape's Further Education and Training Institute, in their Ford Foundation funded research, found recently that nearly three million of South Africa's 6,7 million youngsters between ages 18 to 24 were, in 2007, *neither employed nor receiving any form of post-matric training or higher education*. Of this idle population 41 percent are Coloured and 44 percent are African.

The state of play 15 years into the not-so-new South Africa may be seen from the 2009 matriculation results, as reported by the Centre for Education Policy Development:

1998 Generation of Scholars Numbers Percent Passed matric in 2009 334,609 22% Failed matric in 2009 217,331 14% Wrote matric in 2009 551,940 36% Dropped out 1998 through 2009 998,850 64% Entered school in 1998 1,550,790 100%

South Africa is recognised as one of the biggest spenders on education in the world, forking out about five percent of Gross Domestic Product. Despite this, it remains one of the poorest achievers by international standards. How can we, as a nation, possibly tolerate a *drop-out rate* of 64 percent? This is far worse than the 39 percent fail rate for those who actually wrote the matric exam in 2009. Education expert, Graeme Bloch, says: "It's a ticking time bomb. An enormous number of children will not be doing very much with their lives and will probably not get a second chance at basic education".



How the poor South African economy has continually absorbed these horrific numbers of lost children each year, over the last 15 years, is indeed a miracle. Certainly, this aggregate of lost children is growing to become a very significant portion of the Rainbow Nation.

Graeme Bloch continues: "It will take about 30 years to fix this problem. By then the dropouts from the 1998 generation will have been unemployed for most of their adult lives".

Veteran journalist, Allister Sparks, further highlights this debacle: "We have betrayed a whole generation of young people and left more than a million of them *with no prospects for the future.* That is failing in a sacred responsibility that the ANC had to the youth of this country. For it was the youth, more than anyone else, who fought the real war of liberation in this country.

They represent the future, and to fail them is to ensure the failure of the future of South Africa.

A subject so grave it must surely top the 'to do list' of the President. Alas no. He gives credence instead to the notoriously retrogressive SA Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU) backed by that ever grasping dalliance partner, Cosatu. Over the past five years SADTU has the dubious distinction of topping the list of days lost through strike action. Of all working days lost in this period, *42 percent were incurred by our infamous teachers' union*.

Andrew Levy, veteran labour specialist, says: "We hope one day teachers will realise their moral obligation and use strikes responsibly". Servaas van den Berg, Professor of Economics at Stellenbosch University, adds: "Strike action puts at risk the chances of children getting a good education". And economist Mike Schussler goes as far as saying: "SADTU is keeping apartheid alive".

So, let me try to understand. The future of South Africa lies in the hands of the youth of the nation. The key to that event lies in the education of that youth. The success of that endeavour depends on teachers being at school to teach and having the moral obligation and incentive to teach.

And finally, the government must prioritize education above all else. That scenario seems too simple. Perhaps those entrusted to execute these plans have a greedier and more devilish agenda?

And as Rome continued to burn, the modern-day Nero and his merry fiddlers continued to fiddle – late into the night.

Editorial: As the ANC burns, we burn with it

02 Jun 2017

Head of Stats SA - Pali Lehohla.

When Pali Lehohla, statistician general at Statistics South Africa, unpacked the quarterly labor force survey on Thursday, he all but confirmed that South Africa is indeed hurtling towards a recession.

The most urgent statistic for the rest of us to mull over right now is this: South Africa's rate of unemployment in the first quarter of 2017 increased by 1.2 of a percentage point to 27.7% – the highest figure since September 2003.

The expanded unemployment rate – which includes those who wanted to work but did not look for work – increased by 0.8 of a percentage point, or 391 000 people, from 35.6% to 36.4% of the population. That amounts to a total of 9.3-million people who were unemployed but who wanted to work in the first quarter of 2017.

And there is little respite in sight.

The rating agencies' downgrading of the country to junk status earlier this year has further eroded levels of investor confidence. With little new investment expected, the economy is not likely to expand sufficiently to create jobs for nearly 10-million people.

The rhetoric of radical economic transformation fails to address how President Jacob Zuma has himself been complicit in the systematic impoverishment of the South African people – most of them young black women.

It certainly is tempting to point out that it is under Zuma that R100-billion of value was wiped off funds that invest money with the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) – the fund with the greatest potential for social transformation – in just two days. It is tempting to point out that it is under Zuma that the ANC has lost control of three more metros. It is tempting to point out that it is under Zuma that it is under Zuma that the ANC has expunged some of its most promising leaders, leaving the party as easy pickings for a nefarious, self-obsessed elite.

We cannot, however, pin this on Zuma alone.

It is successive ANC governments that have promised jobs and then left millions of South Africans with little hope of securing employment. It is successive ANC governments that have ensured the public education system is so severely strained, and so poor in its outputs, that it is not likely to equip South Africans with the skills they need to thrive. It is, after all, successive ANC governments that have allowed a culture of waste, corruption and nepotism to fester under their watch.

It is the ANC that is the problem.

Despite an avowed sentiment of dissatisfaction with Zuma within the party, the president and his merry band of loyalists have all but secured his survival until the next election. And here, too, it is the party itself that failed to hold its leader to account.

So, when trade union federation Cosatu's affiliates told the *Mail & Guardian* this week that they would cast their ballots elsewhere should Zuma's heir apparent, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, become the next ANC leader, the severity of the ANC's problems became ever more profoundly clear.

The ANC has been cannibalized, so Mmusi Maimane was right to pronounce the death of the ANC in Parliament this week. There is no saving the ANC, except to watch it burn. It's just that millions of South Africans are burning with it.

KLEPTOCRACY

Stepping Stones' by Bryan Britton 2012

Today it is regarded as one of the most corrupt countries in the world. In the past number of years, the leaders of this country have stolen more than two and a half trillion rand. The average citizen, on the other hand, today only receives about R100

Recently, administration has been making concerted efforts to tackle corruption. Ministers have been dismissed and the government is committed to change. The money is being ring-fenced to tackle poverty and this spending is very closely monitored. The government has committed that the money should go to the very poorest. The country, with the most dangerous slums in Africa, is seen as having the greatest natural resources on the continent. It is also the one with the highest potential for development.

One can be excused for thinking that we are talking here about South Africa.

The country in ques \Box on is, of course, Nigeria. South Africa has yet to go through the quagmire that is Nigeria's recent history; a history of untold shame, sorrow and suffering – all at the hands of the kleptocrats

Kleptocracy derives from the Greek words *kleptes,* meaning 'thief', and *kratos,* meaning 'rule'. It is a word used to describe a government widely engaged in corruption to extend the personal wealth and political power of individuals in the ruling class.

A corrupt and dishonest government, characterised by greed, is described as kleptocratic. Such a government is typically run by rulers who are thieves and who pillage public funds to the detriment of the poor, sometimes without the pretence of offering any form of honest public service. These kleptocrats then exploit a country's natural resources for their own greedy benefit.

The money on which these evil managers of men prey is almost always funds earmarked for the building of public amenities, schools, hospitals, roads, parks and public facilities. Thus the ordinary citizen is prejudiced, inconvenienced and deprived by these selfish kleptocrats.

The term 'kleptocrat' was first used in the 1960s to describe the activities of the ruler of the independent Congo, Colonel Joseph Mobutu, who plundered the rich natural resources of that country for his personal benefit. However, the term could equally have applied to his colonial predecessor, King Leopold II of Belgium. It is said that the megacity of Brussels, a European Union bastion, was built with the kleptocratic proceeds of the resources of the Congo Basin. The story of Africa is one of the Europeans plundering the natural resources of the continent and then, when caught with their hands in the cookie jar, hastily effecting a democratic handover to the most likely African kleptocrat.

This book has urged you young South Africans to develop your own sense of right and wrong, your own morality, your own ethics and your own zone of indifference.

This is in the absence of a reliable schooling and education system. It is a ploy of all kleptocrats known to man, to restrain the emerging youth from education, thus guaranteeing for themselves a stratum of humanity upon which to prey.

Be warned. Be alert. Be careful. Be your own person and be democratic. It has taken Nigeria 40 years to learn this painful lesson.

Identify the warning signs:

The Struggle to Rebuild

Economic Situation

- · Poorest, least-developed region in the world
- · Low economic base and high population growth
- Structural adjustment programs: reduce govt. spending, cut food subsidies, encourage private sector

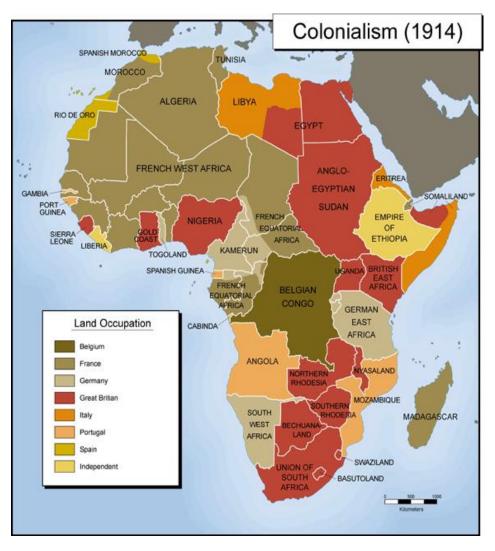
Roots of African Poverty

- · Environmental limitations and slavery
- Failed Development Policies
 - Economic nationalism: inefficient, often corrupt governments took over large segments of economy
- Corruption
 - Kleptocracy: state where corruption is so institutionalized politicians & govt. bureaucrats take huge % of country's wealth Globalization & Diversity: Rowntree, Lewis, Price, Wyckoff 65

STATE CAPTURE

All six of my previous books have had the decline of South Africa from Western Democracy to African Kleptocracy as a background theme.

On April Fool's Day 2017, with the fall of the Treasury, South Africa finally became the fifty fourth country on the African Continent to succumb to the 'African Way'.



This is not surprising when you read extracts from William Woodruff's 'A Concise History of the Modern World' and specifically the chapter 'The Decolonization of Africa'.

William Woodruff is Graduate Research Professor (Emeritus) in Economic History at the University of Florida, Gainesville. He holds degrees from the Universities of Oxford, London, Nottingham and Melbourne (honorary).

He says 'The declaration of principles by Churchill and Roosevelt in the Atlantic Charter in 1941, with its promise of self-determination and self-government for all,

heralded the end of European colonization in Africa. As the Second World War progressed, a new generation of black leaders, intent on obtaining self-rule, emerged out of the native resistance movements'.

'By and large, the European nations were as glad to surrender political power as the native leaders were to assume it. When one compares the struggle for independence in Asia, African independence – with the exception of Algeria – was won quietly and with relatively little bloodshed; in some cases, it was thrust upon those who sought it'.

'When one considers African traditions, and the desperate economic conditions of so many Africans, it was perhaps foolish to have expected Africa to adopt Western ways. With a tradition of hierarchical tribalism, Africa has never been disposed to democratic politics. While the number of democracies in the world is on the rise, Africa was not much closer to democratic rule in 2005 than it was in 1950. What the West understands as freedom of the individual under the law has still to be achieved. Where the rule of law has gained a foothold, it has often been broken by democratic leaders'.

'In many African countries, free elections and a free press (as the West would define them) are not tolerated; nor is an independent judiciary.

The Western idea of freely held multi-party elections is not widespread. Too many governments do not have a 'loyal opposition'; they have political enemies. Elections are a means of conserving power, not introducing democracy. In a continent where power is personalized, few presidents have ever accepted defeat in an election. Concentrated rather than shared, power is the 'African Way'.

'Having removed the colonial yoke, Africans now bear a yolk of their own making'.

'Independence from colonial powers has not only brought widespread violence; it has brought a deterioration of Africa's economic lot. It is the world's poorest, most indebted continent; the debt repayments of some countries exceed the amount being spent on health and education'.

'By holding the West responsible for the continent's extreme poverty, internal wars, tribalism, fatalism and irrationality, autocracy, disregard for the future, stifling of individual initiative, military vandalism, staggering corruption, mismanagement and sheer incompetence, Africans are indulging in an act of self-deception'

'A similar colonial background has not prevented certain Asian countries from achieving rapid economic development. Africa cannot hope to escape from its present economic and political dilemmas by placing the blame on others' 'If Africa is to pay a necessary and constructive role in the world community, it must first rediscover itself. Only Africans really know where they have been and where they might hope to go. They do not have to have Western values and Western goals to become economically viable; their cultural values are too deeply planted for that to happen. Western values and goals may be entirely inappropriate for them. Nor does their performance have to be judged by Western standards. Ultimately, African intrinsic values and goals must prevail. African ideas, confidence and resolve, rather than foreign leadership and foreign aid - much though it is needed – will eventually determine Africa's future. The continent's human qualities and its rich natural resources offer great hope'.

What is State Capture

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

State capture is a type of systemic political corruption in which private interests significantly influence a state's decision-making processes to their own advantage.

The term 'state capture' was first used by the World Bank (c 2000) to describe the situation in central Asian countries making the transition from Soviet communism. Specifically, where small corrupt groups used their influence over government officials to appropriated government decision making to strengthen their own economic positions, these groups would later become known as oligarchs.

Allegations of state capture have led to protests against the government in Bulgaria in 2013-2014, and have caused an ongoing controversy in South Africa which started in 2016.

Defining state capture

The classical definition of state capture refers to the way formal procedures (such as laws and social norms) and government bureaucracy are manipulated by private individuals and firms so as to influence state policies and laws in their favour. State capture seeks to influence the formation of laws to protect and promote influential private interests. In this way, it differs from most other forms of corruption which instead seek selective enforcement of already existing laws.

State capture may not be illegal, depending on determination by the captured state itself, and might be attempted through private lobbying and influence. The influence may be through a range of state institutions, including the legislature, executive, ministries and the judiciary, or through a corrupt electoral process. It is thus similar to regulatory capture but differs through the wider variety of bodies through which it may be exercised and because, unlike regulatory capture, the private influence is never overt, and cannot be discovered by lawful processes, since either (or all) the legislative process, judiciary, electoral process and/or executive powers have already been influenced and subverted by the private special interests. A distinguishing factor from corruption is that, while in cases of corruption the outcome (of policy or regulatory decision) is not certain, in cases of state capture the outcome is known and is highly likely to be beneficial to the captors of the state.

Also, in cases of corruption (even rampant) there is plurality and competition of 'corruptors' to influence the outcome of the policy or distribution of resources. However, in state capture, decision-makers are usually more in a position of agents to the principals (captors) who function either in monopolistic or oligopolistic (non-competitive) fashion.

State capture examples

Bulgaria

Main article: 2013–14 Bulgarian protests against the Oresharski cabinet

Protests in Bulgaria in 2013–14 against the Oresharski cabinet were prompted by allegations that it came to power due to the actions of an oligarchic structure (formerly allied to Boyko Borisov) which used underhand manouevres to discredit the GERB party.

Latin America

Instances were politics have been ostensibly deformed by the power of drug barons in Colombia and Mexico are also considered as examples of state capture.^[1]

South Africa

Main article: Gupta family

In 2016 there were allegations of an overly close and potentially corrupt relationship between the wealthy Gupta family and the South African president Jacob Zuma, his family and leading members of the African National Congress (ANC). South African opposition parties made claims of 'state capture' following allegations that the Guptas were offering Cabinet positions and influencing the running of government. These allegations were made in light of revelations by former MP Vytjie Mentor and Deputy Finance Minister Mcebisi Jonas that they had been offered Cabinet positions by the Guptas at the family's home in Saxonwold, Johannesburg.

Former ANC MP Vytjie Mentor claimed that in 2010 the Guptas had offered her the position of Minister of Public Enterprises, provided that she arranged for South African Airlines to drop their India route, allowing a Gupta linked company (Jet Airways) to take on the route. She said she declined the offer, which occurred at the Guptas' Saxonwold residence, while President Zuma was in another room. This came a few days before a cabinet reshuffle in which minister Barbara Hogan was dismissed by Zuma. The Gupta family denied that the meeting took place and denied

offering Vytijie a ministerial position. President Zuma claimed that he had no recollection of Vytjie Mentor.

Deputy Finance Minister Mcebisi Jonas said he had been offered a ministerial position by the Guptas shortly before the dismissal of Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene in December 2015, but had rejected the offer as "it makes a mockery of our hard-earned democracy, the trust of our people and no one apart from the President of the Republic appoints ministers".[[] The Gupta family denied offering Jonas the job of Finance Minister.

The Guptas' alleged "state capture" was investigated by Public Protector Thuli Madonsela. President Zuma and Minister David van Rooyen applied for a court order to prevent the publication of the report on 14 October 2016, Madonsela's last day in office. Van Rooyen's application was dismissed, and the President withdrew his application, leading to the release of the report on 2 November 2016. The report recommended establishment of a judicial commission of enquiry into the issues identified, including a full probe of Zuma's dealings with the Guptas, with findings to be published within 180 days.

Zuma and van Rooyen denied any wrongdoing. The Guptas' lawyer disputed the evidence in the report, and the Gupta family denied any wrongdoing and welcomed the opportunity to challenge the report's findings in an official inquiry.

On 25 November 2016, Zuma announced that the Presidency would be reviewing the contents of the state capture report. He said it "was done in a funny way" with "no fairness at all," and argued he was not given enough time to respond to the public protector.

BETRAYAL OF THE PROMISE: HOW SOUTH AFRICA IS BEING STOLEN

May 2017

State Capacity Research Project

Convenor: Mark Swilling

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Professor Mark Swilling (Centre for Complex Systems in Transition, Stellenbosch University),

Hannah Friedenstein (independent journalist - pseudonym)

This report suggests South Africa has experienced a silent coup that has removed the ANC from its place as the primary force for transformation in society. Four public moments define this new era: the Marikana Massacre on 16 August 2012; the landing of the Gupta plane at Waterkloof Air Base in April 2013; the attempted bribing of former Deputy Minister of Finance Mcebisi Jonas to sell the National Treasury to the shadow state in late 2015; and the Cabinet reshuffle in March 2017.

Resistance and capture is what South African politics is about today. Commentators, opposition groups and ordinary South Africans underestimate Jacob Zuma, not simply because he is more brazen, wily and brutal than they expect, but because they reduce him to caricature. They conceive of Zuma and his allies as a criminal network that has captured the state. This approach, which is unfortunately dominant, obscures the existence of a political project at work to repurpose state institutions to suit a constellation of rent-seeking networks that have been constructed and now span the symbiotic relationship between the constitutional and shadow state.

This is akin to a silent coup.

This report documents how the Zuma-centred power elite has built and consolidated this symbiotic relationship between the constitutional state and the shadow state in order to execute the silent coup. At the nexus of this symbiosis are a handful of the same individuals and companies connected in one way or another to the Gupta-Zuma family network. The way that this is strategically coordinated constitutes the shadow state. Well-placed individuals located in the most significant centres of state power (in government, SOEs and the bureaucracy) make decisions about what happens within the constitutional state. Those, like Jonas, Vytjie Mentor, Pravin Gordhan and Themba Maseko who resist this agenda in one way or another are systematically removed, redeployed to other lucrative positions to silence them, placed under tremendous pressure, or hounded out by trumped up internal and/or external charges and dubious intelligence reports. This is a world where deniability is valued, culpability is distributed (though indispensability is not taken for granted) and where trust is maintained through mutually binding fear.

Unsurprisingly, therefore, the shadow state is not only the space for extra-legal action facilitated by criminal networks, but also where key security and intelligence actions are coordinated.

It has been argued in this report that from about 2012 onwards the Zuma-centred power elite has sought to centralise the control of rents to eliminate lower-order, rent-seeking competitors. The ultimate prize was control of the National Treasury to gain control of the Financial Intelligence Centre (which monitors illicit flows of finance), the Chief Procurement Office (which regulates procurement and activates legal action against corrupt practices), the Public Investment Corporation (the second largest shareholder on the Johannesburg Securities Exchange), the boards of key development finance institutions, and the guarantee system (which is not only essential for making the nuclear deal work, but with a guarantee state entities can borrow from private lenders/banks without parliamentary oversight). The cabinet reshuffle in March 2017 has made possible this final control of the National Treasury

Executive Summary

Betrayal of the Promise: How the Nation is Being Stolen

The capture of the National Treasury, however, followed five other processes that consolidated power and centralised control of rents:

• The ballooning of the public service to create a compliant politically-dependent, bureaucratic class.

• The sacking of the 'good cops' from the police and intelligence services and their replacement with loyalists prepared to cover up illegal rent seeking (with some forced reversals, for example, Robert McBride)

• Redirection of the procurement-spend of the SOEs to favour those prepared to deal with the Gupta-Zuma network of brokers (those who are not, do not get contracts, even if they have better BEE credentials and offer lower prices).

• Subversion of Executive Authority that has resulted in the hollowing out of the Cabinet as South Africa's pre-eminent decision-making body and in its place the establishment of a set of 'kitchen cabinets' of informally constituted elites who compete for favour with Zuma in an unstable crisis-prone complex network

• The consolidation of the Premier League as a network of party bosses, to ensure that the National Executive Committee of the ANC remains loyal. At the epicentre of the political project mounted by the Zuma centred power elite is a rhetorical commitment to radical economic transformation. Unsurprisingly, although the ANC's official policy documents on radical economic transformation encompass a broad range of interventions that take the National Development Plan as a point of departure, the Zuma-centred power elite emphasises the role of the SOEs, particularly their procurement spend. Eskom and Transnet, in turn, are the primary vehicles for managing state capture, large-scale looting of state resources and the consolidation of a transnationally managed financial resource base, which in turn creates a continuous source of self-enrichment and funding for the power elite and their patronage network.

In short, instead of becoming a new economic policy consensus, radical economic transformation has been turned into an ideological football kicked around by factional political players within the ANC and the Alliance in general who use the term to mean very different things.

The alternative is a new economic consensus.

Since 1994 there has never been an economic policy framework that has enjoyed the full support of all stakeholders. A new economic consensus would be a detailed programme of radical economic transformation achieved within the constitutional, legislative and governance framework. The focus must be a wide range of employment- and livelihood-creating investments rather than a few 'big and shiny' capital-intensive infrastructure projects that reinforce the mineral-energy-complex. For this to happen, an atmosphere of trust conducive for innovation oriented partnerships between business, government, knowledge institutions and social enterprises is urgently required. None of this is achievable, however, until the shadow state is dismantled and the key perpetrators of state capture brought to justice.

The major difference between most of mankind and the not-so-smart is the latter's inability to appreciate the consequences of their actions. As a result, the cerebrally disadvantaged happily tolerate risk levels which sober minds avoid. They truly are fools rushing in. Think of someone permanently inebriated with a steering wheel in their hands. They can often get away with a lot of swerving and close shaves before the accident happens. During this time, uninformed observers might even refer to them as "strategically brilliant." But once disaster hits, everyone realizes a sticky end was inevitable. Those who crudely gambled on capturing the South African State are examples of this reality. Their malfeasance is easily exposed by keener minds. Latest blow for the plunderers is the excellent "Betrayal of the Promise: How the Nation is being stolen" publication by the State Capacity Research partnership. Released last night, the 63 page report by a collaboration of leading academics and researchers

joins the dots in the way Pravin Gordhan has urged upon the rest of us. It provides proof of issues raised publicly by the likes of Thuli Madonsela, Mcebisi Jonas and Paul O'Sullivan. The weight of evidence is now overwhelming. The consequences obvious. Hope springs. – Alec Hogg

Betrayal of the promise: How South Africa is being stolen – Executive Summary

This report suggests South Africa has experienced a silent coup that has removed the ANC from its place as the primary force for transformation in society. Four public moments define this new era: the; the landing of the Gupta plane at Waterkloof Air Base in April 2013; the attempted bribing of former Deputy Minister of Finance Mcebisi Jonas to sell the National Treasury to the shadow state in late 2015; and the Cabinet reshuffle in March 2017. Resistance and capture is what South African politics is about today.

Commentators, opposition groups and ordinary South Africans underestimate Jacob Zuma, not simply because he is more brazen, wily and brutal than they expect, but because they reduce him to caricature. They conceive of Zuma and his allies as a criminal network that has captured the state. This approach, which is unfortunately dominant, obscures the existence of a political project at work to repurpose state institutions to suit a constellation of rent-seeking networks that have been constructed and now span the symbiotic relationship between the constitutional and shadow state. This is akin to a silent coup.



This report documents how the Zuma-centred power elite has built and consolidated this symbiotic relationship between the constitutional state and the shadow state in order to execute the silent coup.

At the nexus of this symbiosis are a handful of the same individuals and companies connected in one way or another to the Gupta-Zuma family network. The way that this is strategically coordinated constitutes the shadow state. Well-placed individuals located in the most significant centres of state power (in government, SOEs and the bureaucracy) make decisions about what happens within the constitutional state. Those, like Jonas, Vytjie Mentor, Pravin Gordhan and Themba Maseko who resist this agenda in one way or another are systematically removed, redeployed to other lucrative positions to silence them, placed under tremendous pressure, or hounded out by trumped up internal and/or external charges and dubious intelligence reports. This is a world where deniability is valued, culpability is distributed (though indispensability is not taken for granted) and where trust is maintained through mutually binding fear. Unsurprisingly, therefore, the shadow state is not only the space for extra-legal action facilitated by criminal networks, but also where key security and intelligence actions are coordinated.

It has been argued in this report that from about 2012 onwards the Zuma-centred power elite has sought to centralize the control of rents to eliminate lower-order, rent-seeking competitors.

The ultimate prize was control of the National Treasury to gain control of the Financial Intelligence Centre (which monitors illicit flows of finance), the Chief Procurement Office (which regulates procurement and activates legal action against corrupt practices), the Public Investment Corporation (the second largest shareholder on the Johannesburg Securities Exchange), the boards of key development finance institutions, and the guarantee system (which is not only essential for making the nuclear deal work, but with a guarantee state entities can borrow from private lenders/banks without parliamentary oversight). The cabinet reshuffle in March 2017 has made possible this final control of the National Treasury.

The capture of the National Treasury, however, followed five other processes that consolidated power and centralized control of rents: The ballooning of the public service to create a compliant politically-dependent, bureaucratic class.

The sacking of the 'good cops' from the police and intelligence services and their replacement with loyalists prepared to cover up illegal rent seeking (with some forced reversals, for example, Robert McBride).

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Subversion of Executive Authority that has resulted in the hollowing out of the Cabinet as South Africa's pre-eminent decision-making body and in its place the establishment of a set of 'kitchen cabinets' of informally constituted elites who compete for favour with Zuma in an unstable crisis-prone complex network;

The consolidation of the Premier League as a network of party bosses is to ensure that the National Executive Committee of the ANC remains loyal. At the epicentre of the political project mounted by the Zuma-centred power elite is a rhetorical commitment to radical economic transformation. Unsurprisingly, although the ANC's official policy documents on radical economic transformation encompass a broad range of interventions that take the National Development Plan as a point of departure, the Zuma-centred power elite emphasizes the role of the SOEs, particularly their procurement spend. Eskom and Transnet, in turn, are the primary vehicles for managing state capture, large-scale looting of state resources and the consolidation of a transnationally managed financial resource base, which in turn creates a continuous source of self-enrichment and funding for the power elite and their patronage network.

In short, instead of becoming a new economic policy consensus, radical economic transformation has been turned into an ideological football kicked around by factional political players within the ANC and the Alliance in general who use the term to mean very different things.

The alternative is a new economic consensus. Since 1994 there has never been an economic policy framework that has enjoyed the full support of all stakeholders. A new economic consensus would be a detailed programme of radical economic transformation achieved within the constitutional, legislative and governance framework. The focus must be a wide range of employment- and livelihood-creating investments rather than a few 'big and shiny' capital-intensive infrastructure projects that reinforce the mineral-energy-complex. For this to happen, an atmosphere of trust conducive for innovation oriented partnerships between businesses, government, knowledge institutions and social enterprises is urgently required. None of this is achievable, however, until the shadow state is dismantled and the key perpetrators of state capture brought to justice.

Outa media statement

The Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA) welcomes the research and position taken by the Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI), in collaboration with the South African Council of Churches (SACC), which exposes how State institutions have been repurposed to serve the #ZumaPowerElite.

In their detailed and damning report, *Betrayal of the Promise: How South Africa is* being stolen, the researchers warn that South Africa faces the danger of a silent coup by a rotten, dangerous and expanding powerful elite who are concentrated around President Jacob Zuma and which has been allowed to flourish by an immoral government.



While OUTA and others have heeded the warning signs of state capture, by taking action against corruption and maladministration for some time now, we believe far more needs to happen from more sectors of society, to realize the call to dismantle President Zuma's captive structures.

"OUTA therefore endorses this report and encourages all concerned citizens and civil society entities to do the same," says Ben Theron, chief operating officer at OUTA. "The report is thorough and provides a scathing explanation of how state-owned entities (SOEs) are pillaged to enrich the Zuma power elite."

Many of the state entities highlighted in the PARI report, which lists 166 cases amounting to R17bn of fraud and corruption between 2010 and 2016, are squarely in OUTA's sights and some of the cases recorded form part of OUTA's investigations and actions being undertaken to correct the unwarranted conduct.

OUTA furthermore supports the report as it fuels civil courage and heightens civil activism to correct the trajectory of the Government's failure to act in the best interests of the people. We will engage and partner with the SACC and PARI, to assist with necessary action in the ongoing journey to hold the perpetrators to

account. It is also important to note that even when Zuma goes, there is a lot of work required to dismantle his structures and to halt to plundering networks that have permeated all levels of Government.

TREASON AGAINST THE STATE

First, only an individual who owes allegiance to a state can commit treason against that state. All citizens of South Africa, whether by birth or naturalization (including the Gupta family), owe allegiance to the state, as do foreign citizens who are resident in South Africa, because they enjoy the protection, the infrastructure and the services of the state.

In South Africa, high treason is a common law offence defined (see SAPS website) as "any conduct unlawfully committed by a person owing allegiance to a state with the intention of; overthrowing the government of the Republic; coercing the government by violence into any action or inaction; violating, threatening or endangering the existence, independence or security of the Republic; changing the constitutional structure of the Republic." The SAPS definition of treason is modelled on a "meticulous and comprehensive judgment" delivered by Judge Gerald Friedman in S v Banda and Others 1990 (3) SA 466 (BG).

DA lays treason charges against Zuma, Guptas

South Africa

Tuesday 30 May 2017

DA leader Mmusi Maimane laid charges at the Cape Town police station against the president, his son, government ministers and the Guptas on Tuesday.

JOHANNESBURG - The Democratic Alliance (DA) has laid criminal charges against President Jacob Zuma, members of the Gupta family, several cabinet ministers and senior executives of state-owned entities, and other individuals implicated in state capture.

The party's leader, Mmusi Maimane, said in a statement on Tuesday that those charged had committed treason, racketeering and corruption.

The 48-page charge sheet, includes TREASON, RACKETEERING & CORRUPTION

'We will not allow Zuma Inc to continue to steal from our people' Maimane said.

Named on the indictment sheet are Zuma; Atul, Ajay and Rajesh Gupta; Ashu Chawla (CEO of the Gupta-owned Sahara Computers); Nazeem Howa (a director of various Gupta-linked companies and former CEO of Oakbay Investments); Mineral Resources Minister Mosebenzi Zwane; Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba; Communications Minister Faith Muthambi; Desmond van Rooyen ("alleged Guptaappointed former minister of finance" and current Minister of Co-operative Governance); Duduzane Zuma, director of Gupta-linked companies and oldest son of Zuma); and Matshela Koko, a suspended executive of Eskom.

The DA charges that they committed the following offences:

1 Corruption – through unlawful conduct that contravenes the Prevention of Combating of Corrupt Activities Ac, specifically offences in respect of corrupt activities relating to public officers, public officials, foreign public officials, agents, legislative authorities, contracts, procuring and withdrawal of tenders, inducing another person to commit offences, and relating to the duty to report corrupt transactions.

This specifically includes the "misuse or selling of information or material acquired in the course of the, exercise, carrying out or performance of any powers, duties or functions arising out of a constitutional, statutory, contractual or any other legal obligation" that amounts to "the abuse of a position of authority, breach of trust; or the violation of a legal duty or a set of rules".

2 Racketeering, – through unlawful conduct which contravenes the Prevention of Organised Crime Act of 1998.

3 Treason, through unlawful conduct which violates, threatens or endangers the existence, independence and security of the Republic of South Africa or which has the effect of changing the constitutional structure of the republic.

Maimane said each of the individuals listed must be held accountable for their actions and face the full force of the law.

'Nothing less will be acceptable to the Democratic Alliance, and nothing less will be fair to the people of South Africa, who are united in their condemnation of these heinous crimes.'

The DA would pursue 'every available avenue until the corrupt state capture project that has undermined and crippled key institutions of the state is stopped and the ANC is removed from power



#GuptaLeaks: Guptas and associates score R5.3bn in locomotives kickbacks

In our first exposé from the #GuptaLeaks, we show how the president's friends and their associates are diverting billions of rand from Transnet's purchase of locomotives to their offshore accounts. In a scheme so audacious and lucrative that it puts the notorious arms deal to shame,

they

Entered kickback agreements totalling R5.3-billion with the Chinese manufacturer that became Transnet's favourite locomotive supplier;

Influenced procurement processes through their associates at Transnet;

Re pocketing R10-million from each R50-million locomotive that Transnet is buying.

This story presents the most direct evidence yet of the Guptas and their associates amassing fortunes offshore by tolling contracts at state-owned entities they control.

#GuptaLeaks: Did Gigaba and officials grease Gupta gears?

The #GuptaLeaks reveal new evidence that immigration officials may have been captured by the Guptas. <u>By amaBhungane and Scorpio.</u>

#GuptaLeaks: Duduzane Zuma, Kept and Captured

The 35-year-old son of President Jacob Zuma, emerges from the #GuptaLeaks as kept and captured by the Gupta family, serving as a key channel for influence on official decision-making, including his father's. <u>By</u> <u>amaBhungane and Scorpio.</u>

#GuptaLeaks: The R331m Dubai Mansion

If the Guptas were looking for anonymity, Dubai wasn't far enough.<u>By</u> <u>amaBhungane and Scorpio.</u>

#GuptaLeaks revealed

Last weekend, the Sunday Times and City Press fired the first salvos in a story that should shake our nation to the core. The former did not exaggerate when it referred to "e-mails that prove the Guptas run South Africa", even if its judgement was based on limited facts, as we shall see. <u>Stefaans Brümmer, Sam Sole and Branko Brkic.</u>

#GuptaLeaks: Guptas pushed Eskom for R1.68bn prepayment

The #GuptaLeaks have exposed the extent to which Matshela Koko – once tipped to become Eskom chief executive – appears to have been captured by the Guptas. <u>By amaBhungane and Scorpio.</u>

A portion of these emails were leaked to the City Press and the Sunday Times, who broke the story at the weekend. Ongoing coverage of those leaks has continued on News24, City Press and TimesLive. Daily Maverick's investigative unit Scorpio and amaBhungane said in an editorial on Thursday that they had access to a larger trove of emails and would make them available to many "bona fide journalists", along with reporting on stories emanating from them.

"Today Scorpio, the Daily Maverick's newly launched investigative unit, and amaBhungane, the independent investigative non-profit, start publishing stories from a much, much wider trove: *a few hundred gigabytes of information containing between 100 000 and 200 000 unique e-mails and a host of other documents," they said.*

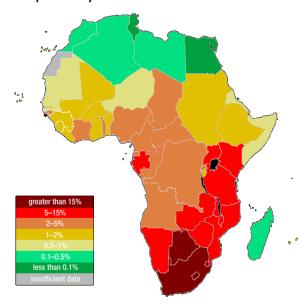
"It was our plan eventually to place the full #GuptaLeaks on a platform accessible to the wider media for further investigation.

'We have now brought that forward and placed the full #GuptaLeaks in the care of an offshore organisation which will load it to a secure platform, from where it will soon be accessible to many bona fide journalists, including the Sunday Times and City Press... This information is both too dangerous and too important not to share.'

The publications said they had the information for some time but held back publishing "in the interests of in-depth inquiry and the safety of the whistleblowers amaBhungane and Scorpio.

IT'S A WRAP

One way or the other I have been involved in business in South Africa for fifty years from 1967 to 2017. In this time, I have seen 27 years of Apartheid Rule, 13 years of Fiscal Discipline despite the yawning gap between democratic freedom and financial freedom and 10 years of the descent of South Africa into a typical African Kleptocracy.



I have witnessed the shift from popular Keynesian Economics to untenable Marxist Principles and the shift from White Domination to Black Oligopoly.

I have in the past suffered under the world's abhorrence of the Apartheid Regime, I have bathed in the glow of the world's support of South Africa after 1994 and I have despaired at the theft of my country in 2017 by non-partisan gangsters, operating through treasonous South Africans, starting with the President of the country.

I have watched South Africa rise to greater than 15% prevalence on the HIV/AIDS

scale, the highest incidence on the African Continent.

I have watched aghast as South Africa slipped from leading country on the Continent to a distant also ran.

I have been incredulous at the theft of South Africa's strategic oil reserves.

I have not seen the piracy at Escom because it was too dark.

I have marvelled that PRASA bought trains that do not suit the tracks but the thieves stole R10 million for every R50 million train purchased.

I have given up watching sport as a range of one day wonders embarrassed the Bafana-Bafana, Protea and Springbok colours.

I cannot believe that the President survived two calls to step down. The Gravy Train must have more passengers aboard than first thought.

Planes don't fly, ships don't sail and the army is on duty in the DRC. So, there is no chance of a military coup anytime soon.

I have watched as the Private Sector, ever motivated by profit, stood idly by as the Public Sector usurped the role of the Private Sector and diverted business activity to the profit unconscious Public Sector. In this endeavour the Public Sector will soon collapse under a mountain of debt, losses and guarantees.

I have seen with horror the burgeoning numbers in the Executive and in the State-Owned Enterprises knowing that these increases in personnel were not accompanied by any form of productivity.

I have seen the Treasury budget review data for 2016/2017 which estimates show 1.9 million individuals are expected to contribute an estimated 80% of income tax. Personal Taxation accounts for 38% of the R1,265 trillion National Budget. When they leave for fairer climes I wonder who will replace them. The black middle class cannot emerge with such poor secondary and tertiary performances resulting in an unemployment figure more than some say 40%. (officially 27%)

I have witnessed the decline in the standard of education despite the increase in tax thrown in that direction and the horrendous increase in the unemployed youth of South Africa (now above 50%). In this regard, I have noted the alarming influence of the South African Democratic Teachers Union. Their suppression of the Black Youth and hijacking of an honest teaching process can only be described as kleptocratic.

All the while the Rand has plunged against almost all other currencies. I am still startled when I recall that on my starting day in 1973 at Coca-Cola, it took \$1, 49 to buy a Rand. Hoe lyk hy nou ou pal.

I am too old and too unhealthy to do anything constructive about the problem, but my kids and grandkids can still seek out a country driven by Christian principles, morality, endeavour and honesty. They should find a country that protects its citizens and allows them to become educated, utilize their talents to the fullest and develop their personal standing in life regardless of colour.

THE DREAM DEFERRED

'I envision someday a great, peaceful South Africa in which the world will take pride, a nation in which each of many different groups will be making its own creative contribution'.

Cry the Beloved Country - Alan Paton



Alan Paton could not have foreseen that a racist clique from Nkandla, the same tribe that had received the territory around Nkandla in the distant past as a reward for collaborating with the British Colonialists, would rise to suppress young blacks, other black tribes and the white minority of South Africa. These traitors would once again collaborate with foreigners only this time to **steal the beloved country**.