

NEWS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW

noseweek

R46⁸⁰
(inc VAT)

ISSUE 231 JANUARY 2019

**Rogue doctor
preys on elderly
women**

**Pauw's
Twitter war
with Noseweek**

**Stink about
Interwaste
moves south**

**Too rich to
pay rates?**





GRAHAM BECK
MÉTHODE CAP CLASSIQUE



www.grahambeck.com



noseweek

ISSUE 231 • JANURARY 2019

Jacques Pauw takes on Noseweek in a Twitter war. Page 4



- 4 Twitter**
- 6 Letters**
- 26 From another country**
- 28 Not Rocket Science**
- 29 Letter from Umjindi**
- 30 Last Word**
- 31 Smalls**

FEATURES

7 Rogues and hacks

Recently leaked emails shed new light on SARS rogue unit and it's allies.

12 Struck-off GP finds new way to exploit elderly

Doctor guilty of unprofessional conduct 'mentors' woman, 82, as profitable alternative speciality.

16 Senior magistrate's bigoted songsheet

Court officer Ashin Singh sows discord among his peers.

19 A stink about a stink

Environmental offender now given green light in Western Cape.

20 Xolobeni: An assault by the state

The Amadiba battle with miners and Sanral reaches a pitch.

22 Changing the game

Wits student Kamal Ramburuth-Hurt is driving a campaign to revolutionise the 'irrelevant' economics curriculum.

25 Too rich to pay rates

Property rates crusader strikes at purse of Joburg's ultra rich and powerful.

Your favourite magazine is now available on your **iPad** and **PC**



AVAILABLE ON YOUR TABLET

Download your digital edition today

BOTH SINGLE ISSUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE!

PLUS never miss a copy – with back issues available to download and store

DOWNLOAD YOUR DIGITAL EDITION AT www.noseweek.co.za OR ☎ 021 686 0570

Twitter war about SARS

IT ALL BEGAN WITH TWO TWEETS THAT *Noseweek* Editor Martin Welz posted to announce the arrival of the magazine's December issue. Then Jacques Pauw, one of the journalists mentioned in the punted *Noseweek* article, immediately responded on Twitter, launching a twitter war (twar) that had thousands of tweeps on the edge of their seats:

Welz: "As top #SARS officials face charges, #Noseweek takes another look at the secret world of Johann van Loggerenberg (JvL) and his friends in the media – a world of intrigue and subterfuge that is generally, but not always, in a good cause <http://bit.ly/SpooksGalore>" and

"When Muzi Sikhakhane SC was appointed to investigate allegations involving top SARS investigator Johann van Loggerenberg, he soon realised he was dealing with veteran spooks not slow to trot out testimony that was 'self-serving, false and irrelevant'."

Pauw: Why does one journalist try to expose the sources of another? Jealousy? Another *Noseweek* story riddled with mistakes. No, I didn't expose [*Julius*] Malema's trust with Adriaan Basson. It was Piet Rampedi. And no, he didn't win the CNN award. And no, [*Pravin*] Gordhan did not write my book. And no....

"Lucy Lastic": Well, Marty lad? How plead you?

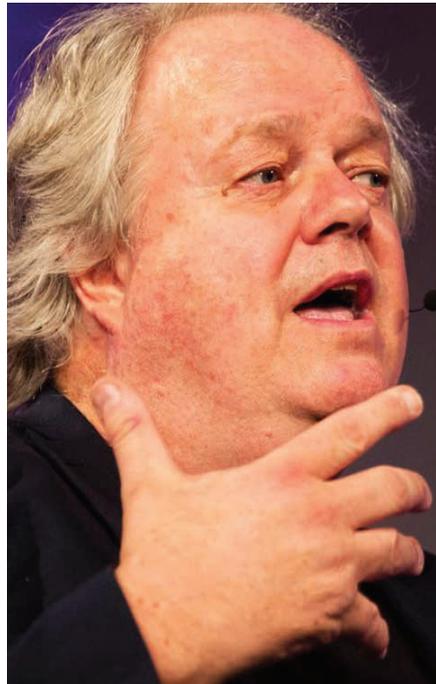
Welz: Not guilty on all counts, Milady. Read the *Noseweek* story then check Jacques's criticisms. None stand up. The real question is: why the hysteria? Am I to be damned a heretic if I say Van Loggerenberg was no saint – although I do thank him and Gordhan for finally nailing Zuma?

Pauw: Just to make it clear: the [*earlier*] Ratanang story was written by Adriaan Basson and Piet Rampedi. I am dumbfounded by *Noseweek*'s continuous attack on Van Loggerenberg. They didn't bother to ask either JvL nor me or Basson for comment.

Welz: It's not clear at all. City Press's [*later*] story headlined "R52m tender trips up Malema", naming the Ratananga Trust and dated 2012-09-23, lists its authors as "Adriaan Basson, Jacques Pauw & Athandiwe Saba". I am similarly dumbfounded by Pauw's desperate attacks on myself & #Noseweek

Adriaan Basson did win the 2012 CNN award as African Newspaper Journalist of the Year "for a series of stories on Julius Malema". A footnote to an open letter Basson wrote to Tom Moyane published in *Fin24* in March 2016 confirms it in greater detail. [*Also see CNN website.*] Jealous?

There was no need to have asked for your comments: they were on record. *Noseweek* (in nose230) quoted them: "Gordhan denied playing any role in Pauw's book." "Van Loggerenberg's lawyer



Jacques Pauw

said the allegations were 'false, malicious, spurious & defamatory'. Pauw said Motale was 'discredited' and had 'used planted information'."

Max du Preez: Geez, Martin Welz, what's your agenda here? This is bizarre and disappointing

Welz: Hi Max, have you ever paused to ponder what Jacques's agenda might be in his outrageous attacks on myself and #Noseweek?

Pauw: The irony is that Welz and I were good friends until April this year. He knows very well that neither Gordhan nor Pillay nor anyone else had written my book. Why has he now repeated the discredited Steve Motale's allegations for the second time?

Welz: #Noseweek never said Gordhan had written Pauw's book. We quoted Motale (quoting his "impeccable sources") saying that Pauw was "approached with tons of information by an influential group led by Gordhan". He certainly got tons of info.

Pauw: Lamentable journalism. Impossible that Johann van Loggerenberg could have been an apartheid spy. In 1990, when ANC was unbanned, he was only 19 or 20 years old! Even the questionable Sikhakhane report found he was an organised crime policeman. No word of being a spy. Why do this?

Welz: The facts: #VanLoggerenberg told Sikhakhane he was an "undercover agent of the SAP" in apartheid years, later a member of "what was known as the Republican Spy Programme". RSP was "used in a political context", but he'd focused "mostly" on crime investigations. A spy by any other name...

How can Sikhakhane be labelled "questionable"? After all, he was appointed to the commission by Ivan Pillay, Johann van Loggerenberg's closest colleague (and his co-accused in the current case). Maybe because Sikhakhane honestly found facts you would rather not be confronted with?

"Real Louis Lood": Young spies do exist

– rogue or right?

“Man on the street”: If his age did not prevent him from being a policeman, why would it stop him from being a spy?

@tybophelo: If it walks, talks and quacks like a spy – it [probably] is a spy

Sandy Shadwell: I think that the only people that will benefit from this spat between @MaxduPreez and @Martin_Welz will be the baddies

Max du Preez: No, I have no part in this. I merely expressed surprise at the unpleasantness. This is between Welz and Pauw

“Politi Oke”: I thought they both were on the same side in the war vs state capture and corrupt activities in general.

Welz: We are when it comes to state capture and corruption – in general. It’s the particulars that sometimes get in the way of the truth.

“Uhuru”: I think I read somewhere in the KPMG report, Johann van Loggerenberg admitting that he fed information to @Jaqs

Welz: Yes. And emails between them were included in the report.

Wele Segalo: When JZ spoke about spies, I thought he watched too many James Bond movies...

What you say here, plus Nene’s testimony at Zondo Commission, a lot adds up...

We have been lied to over and over and over again...

Welz: We were lied to by all sides. JZ was not shy to use his own spies when it suited him.

Ridge Mphahlele: It’s obvious that Pauw, Adriaan, Pauli and Max have an elaborate plan to protect Gordhan hiding behind journalism, while playing politics. Now we understand the extended attacks on Malema. The Hawks should investigate the group.

Welz: Don’t get me wrong. I believe it was overwhelmingly in the public interest to expose Malema’s hypocrisy as a wealthy tax evader while at the same time being a contender for high public office “on behalf of the poor”...

But it was similarly in the public

interest, a decade ago, to have exposed Zuma for the same; instead his “VIP” tax file was kept locked in Van Loggerenberg’s safe... until the Guptas came knocking at Gordhan, Pillay and Van Loggerenberg’s door

Bart Henderson: Martin, did KPMG not distance themselves from the report? Are there different reports?

Welz: No, #KPMG affirmed the body of their #SARS “rogue unit” report and the facts contained in it as correct; they only disowned the findings and conclusions section at the end of it. More...

Welz: #VanLoggerenberg was member of Republican Spy Programme until 1994 (when he was 24); then “noticed” by Pillay when the latter was put in charge of amalgamating old intelligence agencies with ANC/MK ones. He was recruited for SARS’s new spy unit. Only question is: was it rogue?

“Lungie”: Martin you’re onto something here. The problem is that you are going to have the whole army trying to discredit you. There is a tendency of closing ranks.

Welz: I’m confident I’ve enough media colleagues who are trained to accommodate a difference of opinion. I even live with the possibility that I might have got a few things wrong, now and in the past. That comes with the territory, and with being human. All I say is talk to me. No need to be abusive

“Real Lood Louis”: Is there authority for the establishment of such a [spy] unit [by SARS]? Empowering legislation?

Welz: That is the BIG question that needs to be answered; it needs to be tested not only in terms of the paperwork, but also in terms of what the SARS “spies” actually did; who they spied on, how – and to what purpose. That, they say, is very confidential; secret i.t.o the Income Tax Act

Real Louis Lood: [UCT Prof] Pierre de Vos is of the wrong opinion that the SARS rogue unit did not commit any crimes and uses a strawman argument by referring to s3 of National Strategic Intelligence Act (that is not applicable to SARS Rogue Unit) and says it creates no offence. True. But SARS is a creature of STATUTE. It does not have power to create units like that. (No empowering legislation). UCT can also not create such unit – no empowering legislation.

Unit was unlawfully created. Inconvenient truths: If rogue unit was unlawfully created, its members may be members of unlawful enterprise as defined in POCA. It may be racketeering if they commit crimes i.t.o Rica.

Hawks can investigate Pravin. Sorry, but that’s the inconvenient truth. Why am I against this method of operation?

Fascism.

You cannot use unlawful means to investigate taxpayers.

And they acted as if above the law. SARS have no right to bug phones and follow vehicles electronically without a warrant which they clearly did not have. This method of operation was ADMITTED by Van Loggerenberg.

They were fascists. Who will watch the guards? ■



Berea monster must go

I FOUND YOUR REPORT ON THE SCA's ruling allowing construction of the illegal Berea monster building to proceed, based on the metro council's dishonest submissions most distressing (*nose230*). In the original case Judge Esther Steyn delivered a totally correct judgment which the SCA should have upheld.

I only hope that there is still a way (Constitutional Court?) to hit this nest of vipers, trading as eThekweni Municipality, with a successful challenge and see this illegal building reduced to rubble.

'Heather Feather'

Hyper by the Sea, Durban

Tragedy of lost training colleges

READING YOUR PROFILE INTERVIEW WITH UCT's new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng (*nose230*), I was shocked by her almost flippant assessment of the ANC government's decision to close down the once-flourishing technical colleges, teacher colleges and nursing colleges: "Now we realise it was a mistake to shut them," she told *Noseweek*.

So that's it, is it? Just a little "mistake". Oops, sorry? It's not as if this little blaspie crashed a jumbo jet and killed 300 people.

The government's handling of this and other education matters has resulted in incalculable damage. It may not have killed people, but it has robbed millions of poor South Africans of the opportunity to reach their potential and enjoy decent lives. It's little short of a crime against humanity, and should be acknowledged as such.

There is no denying that the education available to black South Africans under white rule was unforgivably sub-standard in relation to what was provided for whites. But at least it sort-of worked. I think it was Mamphela Ramphela (also a former Vice-Chancellor of UCT) who once observed that she was a product of Bantu Education, and she had not turned out so badly!

Top achievers like Ramphela, Wendy Luhabe, and Prof Phakeng might consider themselves fortunate to have been born early enough to grow up with

the old education system. Had they been born a little later, they might not have been educated at all!

Ron McGregor
Cape Town

Crippled by statins

I HAVE ONLY RECENTLY COME ACROSS the (*nose220*) article in by Dr David Klatzow in which he stated that "The jury is still out on whether cholesterol on its own is a health issue and, similarly, on whether statins have any value whatsoever."

Years ago a cardiologist put me on a high dose of Lipitor as my cholesterol level was 8. After a month I suffered severe muscle pain in the legs. A neurologist arranged by the cardiologist advised me to immediately stop taking Lipitor. To this day I am a cripple.

'Cripple'
By email

Pam Herr 1949 – 2018

PAMELA HERR DIED IN CAPE TOWN ON 5 December. Finally Pam's age may be declared, something she resisted to the last. Indomitable spirit, impervious, troubleshooter, and very well organised is how I will remember her.

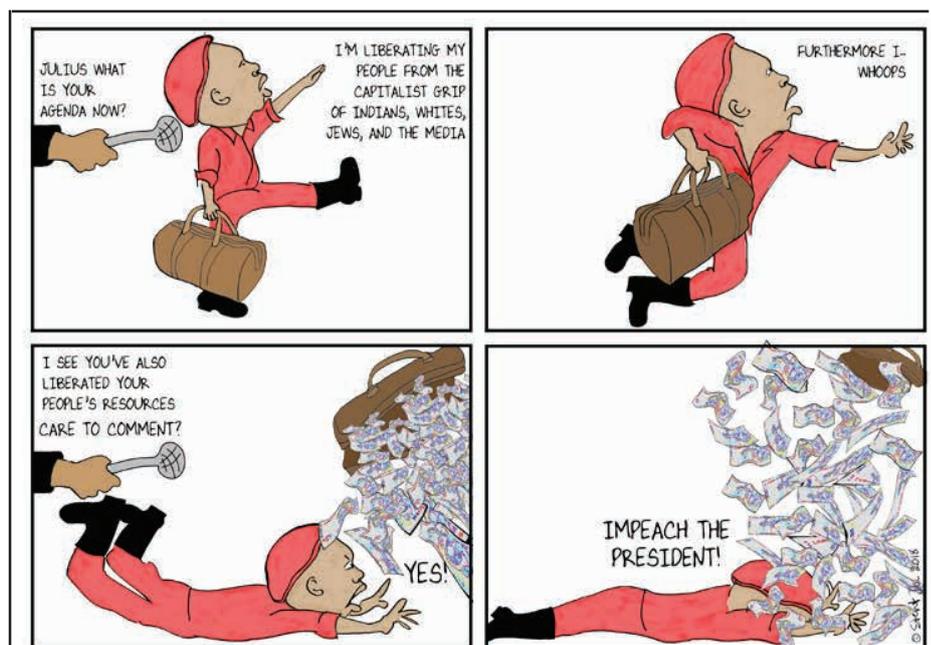
She was for many years a member of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, the Black Management Forum and Business and Professional Women.

Her mission in the Cape Town business community was education. In the early days she made it her business to research what the ANC's policies were likely to be when they came to power, and then ran workshops advising business on what to expect and how to adapt to the new era. Later, the Herr Organisation's many workshops and seminars brought a large variety of speakers well-versed in their subjects to society at large: Clem Sunter, Michael Bagraim, Tito Mboweni, and even Neal Donald Walsch from the USA, to name but a few.

It was indeed an honour to be associated and work with Pam for 31 years and I will miss her deeply.

Dorothy Guest
Cape Town

So will all at Noseweek miss her enthusiastic support, her box of goodies personally delivered every Christmas – and her always insightful letters that over the years appeared on these pages – the last in our May 2018 issue. Her husband, Mervin died in February 2000. She had no children. Friends were everything to her. – Ed.



Stent

Rogues and hacks

New leaked emails shed light on SARS rogue unit and its allies

DOCUMENTS LEAKED TO NOSEWEEK reveal that when Skollie van Rensburg of the SA Revenue Service's so-called rogue unit gave testimony to the Sikhakhane panel, he was shaken at the extent of the panel's knowledge about the controversial unit.

Advocate Muzi Sikhakhane was appointed by SARS's then acting Commissioner Ivan Pillay in 2014 to investigate allegations of impropriety against Johann van Loggerenberg by his former lover, Pretoria attorney and SSA (State Security Agency) agent Belinda Walter.

Van Loggerenberg was the top SARS investigator and former Secret Service spook who took over leadership of the now infamous rogue unit after Van Rensburg departed in March 2008 with a R3 million pay-off to keep his mouth shut.

These three - "Skollie" (Andries Janse van Rensburg), Johann van Loggerenberg and Ivan Pillay - face criminal charges over the alleged 2007 bugging of the offices of the National Prosecuting Authority to monitor the progress of the corruption case against former police commissioner Jackie Selebi. The case continues in the North Gauteng High Court, Pretoria, on 14 February.

According to documents in the possession of Noseweek, after his appearance before the Sikhakhane panel, Skollie van Rensburg reported back on the encounter to Van Loggerenberg's close colleague at SARS, Adrian Lackay, the Revenue's official spokesperson.

"They showed me quite a lot of official documents," Van Rensburg told Lackay in a 9 October 2014 email. "They have all the salary documents pertaining to the unit... Also email correspondence between members of the unit... Minutes of meetings from the unit... List of names and equipment booked to them."

"My biggest concern is that they have my contract signed 12 October 2004 and the contract between myself and SARS when I left the organisation."

"They have several operational documents. One is an original from the NIA (National Intelligence Agency) provincial office signed by Patrick Manana, where an investigation was done on the team. It refers to me as the head, and that the team were involved in

covert intrusions and several surveillance operations. All done under a covert structure.

"They apparently have all the WhatsApp messages between Johann (Van Loggerenberg) and Belinda (Walter). According to them, in these messages Johann referred to himself [as] being the head of a covert unit and also mentioned surveillance detail on specific targets."

"I denied any covert structure, as I was paid by SARS and my travel arrangements were done by SARS. I denied any surveillance operations or any illegal operations."

The reason Van Rensburg was so concerned Sikhakhane had his employment contracts, including the one when he left SARS, was doubtless because the first revealed the controversial nature of his employment, while his termination contract detailed the R3m severance payment negotiated with Pillay, allegedly made to ensure his silence after it was feared he might blow the whistle on the activities of the rogue unit, then called the National Research Group [see box below].

Eight days after receiving Van Rensburg's jittery note, Adrian Lackay emailed, surprisingly, Trevor Manuel, the former finance minister with more bad news. [Manuel had left government service only days earlier to start a new job as senior adviser to the Rothschild financial advisory services group.]

"For your information, we are heading for another fight with the *Sunday Times* this weekend," read Lackay's 17 October email. "Someone leaked a very confidential and restricted document to them: Ivan's (Ivan Pillay) employment contract signed by PG (Pravin Gordhan) earlier this year, and Ivan's previous request for retirement and his GEPPF (Government Employees Pension Fund) benefits."

"They are even going to the extent of asking about Ivan's matric qualifications. Apart from attacking SARS, it is clear Ivan and PG are the targets of whomever is pushing this nefarious agenda."

This was another hot potato. When he was finance minister Gordhan had approved Pillay's early retirement and re-hiring as deputy commissioner on a fixed-term contract - a procedure that raised some eyebrows. Pillay received a lump sum of R2.5m after tax and a pension of R59,672/month when he took early retirement at 56 on 31 December

noseweek

Editor

Martin Welz
editor@noseweek.co.za

Assistant Editor

Jonathan Erasmus

Special Correspondent

Jack Lundin

Designer

Simon Wilson

Sub-editor

Fiona Harrison

Contributors

Jennifer Fitchett, Sibusiso Biyela,
Bheki Mashile, Susan Segar,
Harold Strachan

Cartoonists

Stacey Stent

Accounts

Nicci van Doesburgh
accounts@noseweek.co.za

Subscriptions

Maud August
subs@noseweek.co.za

Advertising

021 686 0570
ads@noseweek.co.za

All material in this issue is copyright, and belongs to Chaucer Publications (Pty) Ltd, unless otherwise indicated. No part of the material may be quoted, photocopied, reproduced or be stored by any electronic system without prior written permission.
Disclaimer: While every reasonable effort is taken to ensure the accuracy and soundness of the contents of this publication, neither the authors nor the publisher will bear any responsibility for the consequences of any actions based on information contained. Printed and Published by Chaucer Publications (Pty) Ltd.



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Print

SA only	R420
Neighbouring states (airmail)	R620
Europe, Americas and Australasia	R760

Internet edition

1 year	R305
--------	------

Combined

Print+Internet (SA only)	R520
--------------------------	------

To subscribe

By phone (021) 686 0570
Online (pay by credit card):
www.noseweek.co.za
Email subs@noseweek.co.za

(Note: cheques no longer accepted)

Further information

Call (021) 686 0570; fax 021 686 0573 or
email info@noseweek.co.za

2010. Thirty-eight days later he was retained as Deputy Commissioner on a five-year contract at R1.989m/year (R100,210/month after tax).

That same evening Manuel responded. "This is so lousy. You guys [presumably SARS and the *Sunday Times*] should have a mediated discussion. At the same time, Ivan should be able to work out who's driving this agenda. I have my own ideas on this one. I bumped into PG in the week and offered the same advice to him. I remain convinced that this is the way to deal with the problem. It will not self-correct and there are people with another agenda. For next week, I may be the target of the same group. It's how they roll.

"Try by all means to reach out to Phylicia [Oppelt - the then *Sunday Times* editor] by first thing tomorrow. Take the fight to her. Ask her to explain why, since the Pallo Jordan story, they've become a tabloid in the hands of those who, in the words of Oliver Tambo 'go from ear to ear with a bag full of wedges, intent on sowing division'."

It was to Trevor Manuel, then finance minister, that Pravin Gordhan, then SARS Commissioner had addressed a memo on 12 February 2007, seeking and receiving approval for funding of an intelligence capability within the NIA in support of SARS.



Van Loggerenberg as a youthful undercover agent

"It is clear that SARS sought to establish within the NIA a unit for the collection of tactical intelligence, which implies 'penetrating and intercepting' organised crime syndicates," Advocate Sikhakhane later noted in his report.

"At this stage SARS correctly realised that it had no statutory authority to collect intelligence. It seems from the memorandum that Mr Gordhan had an undertaking from NIA that it was willing to accommodate such a unit. It follows, even in SARS's own version, that unless NIA co-operated, the establishment of such a unit would be an illegality."

In the event, the NIA declined to take a SARS investigative unit under its wing. So SARS went ahead on its own - provoking what was to become a vicious turf war between the regular intelligence agencies and the usurping unregulated newcomer. The SARS unit, as Sikhakhane observed, was comprised "in the main by recruits from the intelligence community whose existence was not known by the majority of SARS officials".

"The evidence revealed a narrative rarely exposed to the public about our revenue service," said Sikhakhane. "It exposed minority activity of idiosyncratic and egocentric personalities, deception, intrigue and plain falsity. It was, as the evidence will show, a product of an ill-conceived idea to deal with a real challenge of organised crime."

Some believe that Trevor Manuel had the wool pulled over his eyes when he approved the establishment of a joint SARS/NIA operation. But Noseweek's revelation of Manuel's communication with Adrian Lackay shows that the former minister was being kept very much in the loop all along. Question is, what line will Manuel take in the forthcoming rogue unit trial, where he has been lined up as a witness for the State?

From within the SARS High Risk Unit, Johann van Loggerenberg cultivated a coterie of journalists to whom he gave some memorable scoops - scoops that very much served his own agendas.

When his love affair with Belinda Walter ended he was not slow to leak devastating information about her to Jacques Pauw, then with *City Press*. Pauw's hatchet job ran: "Beneath Belinda Walter's glitzy life lurked the Mata Hari of the cloak-and-dagger world of spying; a woman who allegedly used her sexual prowess to infiltrate,



George Darmanovich

watch, record and discredit her targets."

But there's no such thing as a free lunch and Pauw was called upon to return the favour.

Noseweek's file of leaked emails includes one that SARS press spokesperson Adrian Lackay sent to then new commissioner Tom Moyane on 6 November 2014. Lackay wrote that he had received a call from *City Press* journalist Caiphus Kgosana, who was "convinced, based on information or 'evidence' presented to him, that SARS has/had a 'secret' unit that 'spied' on people." Secret front companies, agents operating off the SARS books etc...

Lackay explained to Moyane how important it was that *City Press* should not rush to print on "concocted evidence", but wait for Sikhakhane's report that was about to be presented to SARS. However, said Lackay, "the journalist seems intent on running something this weekend."

He continued: "We (he and Caiphus Kgosana) are scheduled to meet again tomorrow to try and resolve this stalemate. Unlike the *Sunday Times*, *City Press* has proven to be more insightful and circumspect in its reporting around SARS. We hope to further engage their senior editors to either prevent sensationalist reporting or to ensure proper balanced and fair reporting. Please let me know if you think we should proceed

in a different way with the journalist or newspaper.”

Lackay contacted Jacques Pauw, who told him: “I’m going to send Nicki Gules (*City Press’s* assistant editor) an email. This is just bullshit and *City Press* ought to know better. I have an agreement with Ferial (editor Ferial Haffajee) that I can still write for *City Press*, so if you are looking for ‘help’ - for example with the Sikhakhane report - let me know. Give me the findings of the report. That could counter what others are trying to achieve.”

The same day Pauw emailed Nicki Gules (copy to editor Ferial Haffajee) saying he understood that Caiphus Kgosana was working on a SARS story. He didn’t want to interfere but “I want to urge you to be careful about these kind of stories floating around at the moment... I believe they are all part of an orchestrated campaign against SARS and much of it emanates from the Special Operations Unit (SOU) at the SSA (State Security Agency).

“The *Sunday Times* published a similar story two weeks ago and their source was Peega - a former SARS investigator that was fired for rhino poaching. Guess who he works for now? The SOU at SSA!”

Pauw’s email continued: “We will exclusively get the results of Sikhakhane’s enquiry with all the affidavits from everyone within the next few days (it is apparently very explosive), but we cannot let ourselves be used for a campaign against SARS. I will gladly do the Sikhakhane story for *City Press*, or pass them on to you for someone else to do.”

Caiphus Kgosana was reined in and within hours a grateful Adrian Lackay was emailing Jacques Pauw thanking him “for the intervention”.

“They agreed to hold off on publishing until Adv Sikhakhane’s report is made

public,” wrote Lackay. “In turn we gave them full access to the file of our submissions to the panel, including Johann’s affidavit (Van Loggerenberg). I also encouraged them to work with you on the matter on which you have written extensively and to try and get the documents to you. If that doesn’t work I will have to mail it to you.”

Lackay, Pillay and Van Loggerenberg had been confident that Sikhakhane would clear SARS and its controversial unit of any wrongdoing. They got a rude shock when they received his report. It seems that Van Loggerenberg’s legal team (Nico Maritz SC and attorney Wim Cilliers) had shared their optimism. In her testimony, Belinda Walter told the panel that Maritz had advised her that Sikhakhane would find in favour of Van Loggerenberg and he asked her to stop her litigation against him.

When the panel put this to Maritz, the senior counsel advocate assured them that there had been “a misunderstanding in his communication with Ms Walter during their attempt to settle their litigation”.

Says the Sikhakhane report: “Mr Maritz told the panel he had simply indicated that he knew the members of the panel as advocates he respected and was confident that they would come to the correct outcome,” reads Sikhakhane’s report. “As our colleague, we accepted his bone fides in this regard and put the matter to rest.”

Within the rogue unit there was no mercy for the subjects of its investigations. Sikhakhane’s report includes WhatsApp messages that Van Loggerenberg sent to his lover Belinda Walter that well illustrate the unit leader’s style. Reads one: “When we start shutting them down it will be chaos. When the tax inquiries start and we start calling their wives, life won’t be funny anymore.”

Another, sensationally, read: “We are running [phone-tapping] plenty lines. More lines mean more data to sift... Their lines are super-hot... My watcher and listener ladies are well trained and don’t waste time to draft reports for me on the personal stuff - they only report on business.”

Sikhakhane observes: “This damning confirmation of the existence of interception capacity by the unit is nonchalantly dismissed by Mr Van Loggerenberg as statements made in jest...”

Following Noseweek’s story “Spooks Galore” in (nose230), Jacques Pauw has embarked on his usual it’s-all-lies tirade on Twitter. “Lamentable journalism,” he tweeted. “Impossible that Johann v Loggerenberg could have been an apartheid spy. In 1990, when the ANC was unbanned, he was only 19 or 20 years old!”

Johannes Hendrikus van Loggerenberg was born on 12 February 1969, making him 50 next month. When apartheid ended on



Pravin Gordhan

The Most Luxurious Train in the World

ROVOS RAIL
THE PRIDE OF AFRICA
Est 1989
www.rovos.com

27 April 1994 and Nelson Mandela became president the following month, he was 25. From the age of 18 he had seven years of formative adulthood under apartheid.

Six years ago psychologist Elaine Bing wrote a book about the experiences of three white policemen who tortured and killed in the apartheid years, called *The Unmaking of the Torturer* - or more graphically in the Afrikaans edition, *Ek het Gemartel (I have Tortured)*. Under the pen name Wachizungu Sawa Sawa - the charity he founded that same year, 2013 - Johann van Loggerenberg wrote a foreword to the book, describing how during national service "as an 18-year-old boy I was faced with terrible scenes and situations that nobody should ever have had to deal with at that age".

His foreword told of the panic attacks and post-traumatic disorder that followed him into his 30s and 40s (at one stage he was admitted to Denmar private psychiatric hospital in Pretoria). And he wrote how after 1994 "I met many people who were part of the 'enemy' but who took me in and gave me chances in life to participate in the task of rebuilding our country."

As for Pauw's repeated insistence that Van Loggerenberg was never an apartheid spy, consider the latter's testimony to Sikhakhane. "Mr Van Loggerenberg describes himself as having been an undercover agent of the South African Police during apartheid South Africa," states the Sikhakhane report. "He told the panel that prior to joining SARS he was a member of what was known as the Republican Spy Programme. He also told the panel that although the

Republican Spy Programme was used in the political context, he focused more on criminal investigations.

Sikhakhane adds: "We were also told by another witness that the Republican Spy Programme or Republican Security was one of apartheid South Africa's most effective operations to infiltrate apartheid's political opponents, in the form of liberation movements. It recruited from universities and institutions of learning, targeting what apartheid security apparatus saw as bright stars who could be easily trained to operate under-cover in unique political environments of liberation movements."

A former close friend sheds fresh light on that aspect of Van Loggerenberg's Republican Spy Programme duties. "Johann spoke about being deployed in Natal - Durban and Pietermaritzburg - and he had to work the universities. He was chosen because he was young and blended in. He spoke about selling mandrax as part of the projects. He also spoke about his friend on the RS Programme who committed suicide, whose body he found.

"I generally feel very sorry for Johann. His world is dark and he is 'stuck in the moment' of what he once was."

The new SAPS was founded in 1995 and Van Loggerenberg, identified only as Agent RS536, was quick to shine. "It gives me great pleasure in extending my appreciation to RS536 for his outstanding performance as an undercover agent in Operation Kalashnikov, Boomerang Leg," reads his commendation the following year from Assistant

Commissioner FC Truter. The detective chief added: "It is reassuring to note than even in today's trying time, there are still members prepared to sacrifice time and effort in order to provide a professional service."

Van Loggerenberg was seconded to the NIA to assist on specific investigations. He did this until he was approached by the South African Secret Service and it was during his time at the SASS that he met Pillay.

If Van Loggerenberg presented a hazy account to Sikhakhane about his police service during apartheid, factual accuracy isn't one of Jacques Pauw's strong points either. Back in 2014 Pauw wrote a story in *City Press* implicating an SOU (Special Operations Unit) agent, a colourful Serb named George Darmanovich, in ending the careers of Johann van Loggerenberg and the SARS rogue unit. It took three years for Pauw to apologise, finally admitting it was not the SOU but the Economic Intelligence Unit that was responsible.

"I was fed wrong information. It was so convincing that I believed it," he emailed Darmanovich in March 2017. "I believed that you were personally involved in the whole mess. I was played, played very, very convincingly."

Despite this, when Pauw's book *The President's Keepers* was launched eight months later, Darmanovich told the *Sunday Independent* that Pauw had repeated the lies in his book. He found it strange that after writing an apology to him, Pauw could "carry on and write the same lies for which he apologised," reported editor Steven Motale.

Darmanovich announced he was taking legal action against Pauw, who



KEN FORRESTER VINEYARDS
GRANTED 1689

Cellar Door open
Monday - Friday 09:00 - 17:00
Saturday 09:30 - 15:30

After Hours
tasting at
96 Winery
Road

Cnr of R44 & Winery road, between Somerset West & Stellenbosch | GPS: 34° 1' 39.06 " S 18° 49' 12.83" E
Tel +27 (0)21 855 2374 | info@kenforresterwines.com | www.kenforresterwines.com

he described as “a serial liar”.

In his book Pauw describes the Serb as a “glitzy character who operated from a safe house and drove fast cars with boots full of guns, cash and police docketts. However, he became a liability to the SSA. A contract worker should never reveal his/her connection to the agency. This was where Darmanovich failed miserably: he couldn’t keep a secret.”

There will, however, be no courtroom compensation for Darmanovich for Pauw’s “lies”. In a contract hit on a Sunday last May in the Serbian capital of Belgrade, two men on a motorcycle gunned down the extrovert spook with two shots to the head. He died that afternoon in hospital.

• Johann van Loggerenberg has placed on record: “I dispute the content of the Sikhakhane panel report and Kroon Advisory Board statement in their entirety. The Sikhakhane panel report is overall flawed in fact and law.”

For years SARS denied the existence of a rogue unit. “SARS has never had a covert intelligence unit and has never bugged any telephones,” ran the perennial response of former spokesperson Adrian Lackay to media enquiries.

So it’s revealing to read the minutes of an early meeting of the unit on 24 May 2007, when it was referred to as the Special Projects Unit. Attended by Ian Pillay, Rita Hayes (a former SARS general manager) and Janse “Skollie” van Rensburg, the meeting was to define the unit’s mandate, focus areas, targeting systems, roles and responsibilities. The mandate they decided on: to “Collect covert intelligence”.

Johann van Loggerenberg claims to this day that he wasn’t involved until he took over as unit leader the following year, in the aftermath of the alleged May-July 2007 bugging of the offices of the National Prosecuting Authority in Operation Sunday Evenings. Those 24 May 2007 minutes, however, precisely define Van Loggerenberg’s unit role from the start: “Van Loggerenberg was supposed to work closely with the unit, but it was to remain an entity in its own right. He was not to be regarded as the line manager and did not sign approvals. Instead Van Loggerenberg would advise Pillay, but would not give Janse van Rensburg orders. And Pillay

remained the manager of the unit.”

Skollie van Rensburg (salary R950,000/year), left SARS at the end of March 2008. Eleven days later Johann van Loggerenberg attended his first meeting as the now-named National Research Group’s manager at the “Brooklyn Guest House”. In the minutes of these unit meetings, Van Loggerenberg spelt out the rules of play. Such as:

- “Approval of operations lies between Ivan Pillay and Johann van Loggerenberg. Without approval from them operation is unauthorised.”

- “According to the law, SARS cannot collect covert intelligence. Everything we do must be in accordance to the Constitution and must be legal. If you do not know, then don’t do it.”

- “Contact with Skollie must be broken completely. If he makes contact then it must be reported in writing via unit leader Pillay.” And so on.

However, in the Rules of Play document it is also recorded, upfront, under the heading Status of Group, that:

- “Group is not known; cost centre is not known. Until further notice that will be the case “ and

- “We will be tasked by the client to establish something in his investigation that cannot be established through the normal channels” and, sarcastically,

- “If you want to liaise with the SAPS, NIA, SASS, DSO etc, then you can ask for a transfer to the SARS unit tasked with liaison. Interaction with other government departments is out and not authorised.”

In a subsequent discussion with group members it is recorded that “JvL explained that the Rules of Play was done to protect the unit and its members from being known within and outside of SARS. Formal covers will not be created but members should rather focus on creative means to keep their existence unknown.”

It emerges from the discussion that there was controversy about the contracts that were concluded with people originally recruited to the group: “JM expressed concern... as SARS wants to honour the contracts given to members coming from external companies but does not want to do the same for members with previous SARS contracts.

“JM explained that all SPU members were appointed through the

same process and the fact that some are on CBCU structures while others were not moved from their previous SARS [structures] is an administrative oversight and does not mean that the contracts they have received for appointment to CBCU is ‘null and void’.”

Around August 2009 the NRG was formally “disbanded”, although half a dozen members were retained to continue operations under Van Loggerenberg and a new name, the High Risk Investigation Unit.

Sikhakhane found that the establishment of the unit under both names was unlawful. There was prima facie evidence that it “may have abused its power and resources by engaging in activities that reside in other agencies of Government, and which it had no lawful authority to perform”.

Under Skollie van Rensburg, the NRG “appears to have had carte blanche to regulate its activities,” said Sikhakhane. “The covert unit operated outside the traditional SARS environment, printed fake SARS cards, bugged, tracked vehicles, conducted surveillance of individuals and disguised themselves as drivers to certain political figures [one being Julius Malema]. This was regarded as unlawful and outside the SARS mandate by some members of the unit.”

SARS, declared Sikhakhane, was not responsible for crime intelligence or covert intelligence gathering. “The provisions of the National Strategic Intelligence Act 39 of 1994 regulates the functioning of intelligence structures in South Africa and prohibits the conducting of covert intelligence gathering by structures other than the National Defence Force, the SAPS or the State Security Agency.”

“The establishment of the unit without having the requisite statutory authority was indeed unlawful,” Sikhakhane concluded. “There is prima facie evidence that the existence of this unit had the real possibility of undermining the work of those agencies tasked with the investigation of organised crime and the collection of intelligence.

“There appear to be serious concerns about whether settlements concluded with taxpayers who were the subject of [illegal] investigation, were validly and properly concluded.” ■

Struck-off GP finds new way to exploit elderly

Doctor guilty of unprofessional conduct has developed a profitable alternative speciality; preying on old women

A FEW WEEKS AGO, UK-BASED businessman Andrew Wood became very concerned when he noticed that a number of strange transactions were taking place from the bank account of his 82-year-old mother Marguerite Harness-Wood in Cape Town. Wood has power of attorney to manage his mother's affairs.

"She doesn't normally spend money on a regular basis, but suddenly there were withdrawals of about R2,000 every day. This happened over a period of about two weeks," Wood told *Noseweek*. "She'd ring me and say 'I need R2,000 for food', then she'd phone again and say she needed it for fuel and other things. I would put the money in and it would be gone the next day. Then she'd call again... I was worried that something was going wrong. I rang her and asked her to

tell me about these transactions. She said I had to trust her, that she knew what she was doing – but she wouldn't tell me why she had been withdrawing the cash."

Alarm bells went off when his mother next rang – to ask him for £24,000 (about half a million rand), and then repeated her request the following week. "I called her and said 'can you tell me what it's for and I will happily send it over'."

Already perturbed, Wood had another shock when he got a call from his mother to tell him she had "kidnapped" her husband (Wood's stepfather, Brian Harness-Wood) from the Tokai Estate Health Care Centre, where he was in frail care.

"I had put Brian into the Tokai centre when I was last in South Africa, a few weeks previously. He had been suffering from dementia and it was decided he needed extra care.

"When my mother told me she'd 'kidnapped him' she was very excited and told me she'd gone in there sleuth-like to get him out. She said she had told him she was taking him out for breakfast and then she didn't take him back. I was really worried about Brian.

"I said to her, 'Mother, who helped you to do this?' and she would not tell me. She also refused to tell me where she had moved him to."

So the horrified Wood called the Tokai Estate Health Care Centre to ask who had taken his stepfather out of their facility.

"Luckily, the person who had accompanied my mother had written his name on the visitors' log and so we looked up his name," Wood said.

The name that popped up was that of Johann van Rooyen. A quick internet search established that Van Rooyen was a doctor who had been found guilty of unprofessional conduct by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) – and struck off the roll by the Medical and Dental Professions Board last year.

Wood found an article on *IOL*, published on 26 July 2017, headlined "Doctor found guilty of fleecing elderly woman out of life savings".

The story said the HPCSA found Van Rooyen – who had practised as a GP at 14 Gabriel Road, Plumstead – guilty of unprofessional conduct for using his doctor/patient relationship to enrich himself.

The article said Van Rooyen appeared before the committee after he'd been accused of stealing R450,000 from a patient of 30 years, Marjorie Pelton.

According to *IOL*: "Pelton's daughter, Cheryl Bluff, said Van Rooyen accompanied her mother, who was about 76 years old at the time, to the bank several times and wrote various cheques, which Van Rooyen made her sign. Bluff said her mother died in 2012 after suffering from a brain tumour and was senile at the time that Van Rooyen treated her."

According to Bluff, the missing money was meant for Pelton's frail care, but when she needed it, there was nothing left in the bank.

Having read the article, Wood immediately called a friend in Cape Town and asked him to check on his mother. "My friend went round (the weekend before I arrived) to see if he could find out anything for me. He reported back



Conman Johann van Rooyen

that Van Rooyen was at my mother's house and was taking photographs of things in her home – with my mother's blessing – with a view to selling them for her. They were items like old Chanel suits which she had had for many years, ornaments, crockery and other objects.

"My friend said they were talking about how Van Rooyen had fallen on hard times. He said Mother was talking about Van Rooyen moving into her home, and that he was living out of a car, or something to that effect."

A panicked Wood flew to Cape Town and arrived on Sunday, 18 November to try to sort out his mother's affairs, and because he was deeply concerned about his stepfather's wellbeing.

The first he had heard about his stepfather's whereabouts was when he received an email on 15 November from a Lizann Painter, matron at the Brenthurst Residence for the elderly in Plumstead. It emerged that his stepfather had been moved there on 14 November.

"I had actually visited the facility previously when I was looking for a place for my stepfather. There was nothing wrong with it, it just was not my first choice, and so I put him into the Tokai facility.

"The email from Lizann Painter appeared to be defensive about how Brian had arrived there and it was totally unsolicited. It just didn't sit right with me," said Wood.

In her email, Painter stated that "suddenly" a bed had become available and was assured by Wood's mother that she could transfer him there.

It read: "He arrived in good spirits yesterday morning with very few goods and no medications which my Nursing Manager queried with the [Tokai] facility, to find that he had not been officially discharged, absolutely not per our protocol.

"I then contacted your mom to advise her regarding the conditions of Admission here [that they] MUST be above board as we do business with all these facilities, upon which she tells me she went back last night and formally discharged him and received his medications which were then delivered here forthwith.

"Your step-dad is in good shape physically but has some brain changes which you indicated you knew about. He is very sociable and has started interacting with our other clients here already.

"South Africa has very strict Elder-Care Laws which I endeavour to adhere to and will follow the stipulated processes. I am not at liberty to share any information except about him and his well-being and trust you understand my professional restraints about any other parties except him.

"I can assure you that your stepfather is in good hands here and that we run a respectful business," said Painter's email.

Wood called Painter as soon as he got her email and asked her how it happened that his stepfather had got into Brenthurst. "I asked her who had been with my mother when she took Brian to Brenthurst. At first she was very vague and said, 'Oh, nobody was with your mother, she was on her own'. But when I pressed her, she eventually said that actually there was a gentleman with her called Johann van Rooyen.

"She then told me she had known Van Rooyen for a number of years and he had placed a number of people in this facility over the years. I was getting more and more worried about what was happening at this point. I was sure that before somebody can be accepted into a home, there are proper procedures you have to go through, including a doctor's certificate, as well as reports from a geriatrician and a

psychologist.

"There should also be a paper trail for the move. Most important, they should have seen him prior to his admission, which is what happened when we put him into the Tokai centre. If you admit someone, you should see them before they arrive to assess their assisted-living needs.

"It appeared to me that they just took Brian in on the say-so of Van Rooyen and my mother – with no assessments, nothing. It appeared to me there was some sort of collaboration going on."

Wood found it worrying that, after putting the phone down from speaking to Lizann Painter, within seconds, he got a call from his mother saying she had heard he was coming over to South Africa. "She said she'd had a call from the care home... but I believe the call went to Van Rooyen – who was with her – to tell him I was coming over. My big question was, why was the care home liaising with Van Rooyen?"

On arrival in Cape Town, Wood checked into a B&B near his mother's house. On his initial visit to his mother he established that she had fallen for Van Rooyen's not inconsiderable charm.

Wood contacted the Kirstenhof police and told them about Van Rooyen, but the police said there was nothing they



Marguerite Harness-Wood and her gallant son Andrew

could do because his mother had full mental capacity so was free to give her money, car and even her house away to anyone she wanted to.

Wood also met with Cheryl Bluff, the daughter of the late Marjorie Pelton, whom Van Rooyen had cleaned out financially.

Bluff told him she was recently approached by the HPCSA to say Van Rooyen had applied for his medical licence to be reinstated and that she voiced strong opposition to this.

Wood is a biochemist by training and now works in property, supplying student rooms in Swansea, Wales. He told *Noseweek* that his mother – a former music teacher who went on to become the first female non-executive director of the Yorkshire Electricity Board and also stood for Parliament – came to South Africa on holiday about ten years ago, fell in love with it and moved here with her husband, Brian.

Wood's mother told him she met Van Rooyen about ten years ago when she first moved to South Africa as he had been the family doctor of a close friend.

"I did not want to confront my mother about this on her own, so I decided to wait until Van Rooyen was at her house and then to hopefully get him to tell her everything about his life. He arrived at her house on Monday (November 19), the day after my arrival in Cape Town."

Wood asked Beth Wallace, the owner of the B&B where was staying, to

accompany him.

"We went to my mother's house. I pressed the buzzer, the sliding gate opened and Van Rooyen walked out and held out his hand to me, saying, 'Pleased to meet you'.

"I said to him, 'I really don't want to shake your hand, but please come inside and sit down.' I thought he'd be shocked but he wasn't.

"I said, 'Can you please tell my mother about your past' and my mother said, 'But I know about his past. I know he was a GP, I know he was struck off by the HPCSA, I know about his gambling, I know all these things about him but I need the mental stimulation he is providing me.'

"My mother was not at all upset. She completely believed in him.

"I could not believe this gentleman could be so unfazed by what he was hearing and what we were asking him. He was dressed in a suit and looked very slick and suave. He was not at all unnerved."

Wood said the conversation with Van Rooyen and his mother went on for some time, after which Wood asked Van Rooyen to leave. Wallace also left at that stage.

"I then sat with mother and we had a calm conversation and she said she was really enjoying the mental stimulation which Van Rooyen offered her. On top of that, he had helped her to re-license her husband's car and assisted with other chores.

It also emerged that Van Rooyen had given his mother at least two injections, including "a cortisone injection" in her shoulder, despite his having been struck off by the HPCSA.

"She told me Van Rooyen had accompanied her on a visit to Brenthurst with a view to placing Brian in the facility. Then she mentioned that Van Rooyen had organised with her for Brian to be reassessed at the Brenthurst medical facility by a Dr Dietrich – and that she, too, was going the next day, a Tuesday, to be assessed by the same gentleman. She said Van Rooyen had suggested this.

"I said to her 'this sounds like a ruse'. I called Brenthurst and was told that Brian had already been assessed by Dr Dietrich. I asked them for the results and they said he had had to leave on an emergency and that they would send the results later."

Wood said he feared that, in the case of both Brian and his mother, the assessment could come back saying

Brian had his full mental capacity.

"I was worried that, with that assessment, they could start withdrawing money from his account because he may have said it was okay. But he has already been diagnosed with dementia."

Wood was also suspicious when his mother said she wanted to be present at Brian's psychiatric assessment but that Van Rooyen had reportedly told her she wasn't fit enough to do that.

"I was also most concerned that she had also been booked in for an assessment – at Brenthurst. Why at Brenthurst? I was worried that the whole idea was to pronounce my mother capable so that Van Rooyen could keep preying on her.

By this stage, Wood had had some success in persuading his mother that Van Rooyen might not have her best interests at heart. So she ignored a few calls that followed from Van Rooyen over the next two days. She also decided to cancel the psychological assessment at Brenthurst that had been booked by Van Rooyen, scheduled for Tuesday 20 November.

"However, when my mother called Brenthurst, she was told Van Rooyen had already cancelled the planned appointment." Wood said his mother was also told by matron Lizann Painter that Van Rooyen told her he'd been physically assaulted by Andrew Wood at Harness-Wood's house the previous day.

"My mother called me in tears to say Van Rooyen had told her I'd beaten him up and the police were looking for me to put me in prison. He wanted to meet at my mother's house for me to apologise and pay his medical costs."

On Wednesday 21 November, Andrew Wood emailed *Noseweek* to say: "This morning my mother phoned Brenthurst to inquire about the tests Brian had with Dr Dietrich. Lizann (Painter) said Van Rooyen had a black eye and a bad leg. She said my mother had a contract with Van Rooyen and that she needed to sign it. She said she was expecting us this afternoon to meet with her and Van Rooyen so that I could settle up with him."

A day or so later, Wood was told that Van Rooyen had in fact laid charges of assault against him. He postponed his flight home to deal with the charges and carried on trying to deal with his mother and with Brian.

"I submitted a statement to the police as did B&B owner Beth Wallace



Marguerite Harness-Wood

who had been at the meeting on the Monday with my mother and Van Rooyen.”

By then Wood had discovered that Van Rooyen had in fact issued a number of receipts to his mother, for “mentoring” services. He showed *Noseweek* one of the invoices – featuring Mrs Harness-Wood’s name and address, and dates on which Van Rooyen “mentored” her at a rate of R650 an hour.

On 5 November, he invoiced her for R1,950 for three hours of mentoring and vehicle transport and the next day he invoiced her for R3,900. There was an invoice following that, for R3,950; the next day, for R3,900; and the day after that, for R2,600.

When Wood left the UK to fly to South

He charged her R1,950 for three hours of mentoring and transport – and for a similar sum the next day

Africa, his mother’s current account had been wiped out. “There was no money left in it.” He also subsequently found that money had been taken from Brian’s Standard Bank account as well as from his account in the UK. He was still to verify amounts.

Having postponed several flights home to deal with his mother – and his impending arrest for alleged assault – Wood then received the news that his stepfather had fallen at Brenthurst – barely two weeks into his stay at the facility – and had to be admitted to hospital.

Responses from Brenthurst to *Noseweek’s* questions about Brian’s fall were confusing and contradictory. A staff nurse said he had fallen in his room, while matron Painter said he had fallen in the hallway.

Brian was admitted to Vincent Pallotti Hospital and a distressed Andrew Wood decided it was time to look for an alter-

native home for his stepfather – who has now been accepted into another care facility and was due to move there as soon as he was declared well enough.

Interestingly, Brenthurst has waived all expenses for Brian’s brief stay with them – and the fee for the consultation with Dr Dietrich has also been waived because he had already had one done with a geriatrician.

Noseweek paid a visit to Marguerite Harness-Wood – who by then appeared frightened of Van Rooyen and was soon to seek a restraining order against him. She told *Noseweek* it was Van Rooyen who accompanied her to Brenthurst with a view to placing Brian there.

She confirmed he gave her several injections. And she confirmed she had given Van Rooyen her bank card and bank details so that he could draw money for her.

Harness-Wood’s face lit up as she described how she and Van Rooyen would drive together past certain restaurants – including La Colombe and Foxcroft in Constantia – and he would suggest they dine there together. “All the people in the restaurants remembered me from way back. It gave me the confidence to start going out again, even on my own,” she said.

Noseweek gave Van Rooyen a call and asked him if he could explain, first, how he could have given Mrs Harness-Wood injections after being struck off as a doctor – as well as why he was taking money from her.

Van Rooyen refused to engage at all, saying he was in Port Elizabeth and that his car had packed up. Repeated attempts to get answers resulted in Van Rooyen putting the phone down.

When *Noseweek* called Lizann Painter to ask her about the admission procedures followed for Brian, as well as about his fall – and to ask what her relationship was with Van Rooyen – she also declined to respond and slammed the phone down.

The charges against Andrew Wood were dropped for lack of evidence, so he was able to leave Cape Town to return to the UK.

In another development, a search by the police found that the number plate on Van Rooyen’s car is false – and belongs to a truck.

In the meantime, a number of other people have spoken to *Noseweek* about their own experiences with Van Rooyen. We will keep readers updated. ■



Association of Arbitrators
(Southern Africa) NPC

The leading Alternative Dispute
Resolution organisation in
Southern Africa.

The benefits of being a Member of
the Association are:

- Education and training – which enables members to elevate their status from that of Associate to Fellow;
- Once Fellowship status has been acquired – upon successful completion of the two-year Fellowship Admission Course – Members are eligible for admission to the panel of arbitrators from which appointments are made.

The following courses are now
open for registration in 2019:

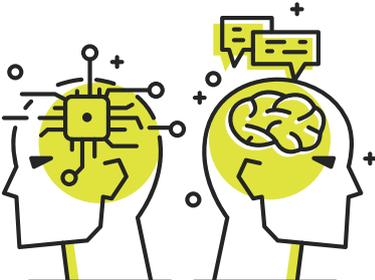
- Accelerated Course for Advocates and Attorneys;
- Certificate in Arbitration;
- Fellowship Admission Course;
- Specialisation in Construction Law.

Closing Date
28 February 2019

To enroll, kindly send an email to:
coursecoordinator@arbitrators.co.za

Visit our website:
www.arbitrators.co.za

Grafik
THOUGHT
DESIGN CO.



**YOUR THOUGHTS,
MADE VISUAL**

Grafik Thought is a Multidisciplinary Design
Agency Specialising in Graphic Design,
Web Design, Branding and Illustration

✉ mich@grafikthought.com ☎ 072 141 8854

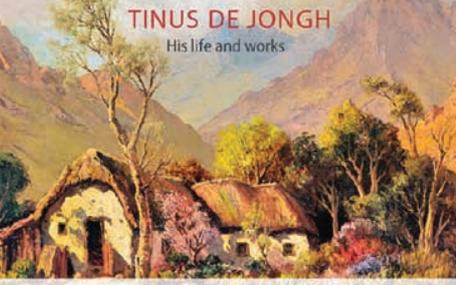
**IF YOU RENT PROPERTY
KEEP THIS NUMBER**

**I CAN HELP YOU WITH
PROBLEM TENANTS**

I CAN ASSIST YOU WITH THE
RENTAL HOUSING TRIBUNAL

IF YOU DON'T NEED ME NOW,
YOU WILL LATER

JOHN: 082 901 0824



TINUS DE JONGH
His life and works

NOW AVAILABLE AT:
www.tinusdejongh.co.za | dejongh@yabo.co.za
R265 incl postage within South Africa

Senior magistrate's bigoted songsheet

Court officer Ashin Singh sows discord among his peers

A PIETERMARITZBURG MAGISTRATE with a shoot-from the hip attitude who was recently charged with threatening a court reporter (see *nose227*), has told a retired senior magistrate in his circuit to “go to hell”; that her health issues are the result of “karma”; and that “the views of your lesbian friend” should be ignored.

It might just be the last exchange of words between magistrate Ashin Singh and retired senior magistrate Petronella Joubert who stepped down on 30 November in a feud that has run for well over a decade. They have repeatedly complained about each other to superiors and oversight bodies during that time.

But it appears Singh's attitude to authority and his ability to drag out a fight, is nothing new, – his

antics having once reached the ear of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

Joubert is currently involved in a complaint against Singh being heard by the Magistrate's Commission – a matter that has dragged on since August 2017: Joubert and two other magistrates claim that Singh and the local chief magistrate “intimidated and victimised” them.

The latest exchange of words is the result of an email sent by Joubert on 29 November, a day before retiring, which she sent to all magistrates within the circuit. Her email said that, because she was retiring it was necessary that she “respond to Mr Ashin Singh's wild and unfounded allegations before I leave”. He had supposedly made the allegations in an email sent to everyone in August 2017. With attachments, Joubert's email outlined a series of complaints made by Singh against Joubert dating as far back as June 2005.

“He stated that there was a finding by a judge that I victimised him. He is lying,” she said, going on to give a blow-by-blow account of incidents since 2005, including that Singh had called her a “gender equality affirmative action Senior Magistrate” and had accused her of being biased towards white magistrates.

From her email it is apparent the two crossed the judicial civility line with regularity, leading to one instance with the respected, now retired, Judge Noel Hurt even commenting: “I am disturbed to note there seems to be background of personal animosity between the senior magistrate who made the request... and the magistrate who made the order.

“I trust that the chief magistrate



Magistrate Ashin Singh

will have investigated this problem”.

Joubert also said Singh wrote in an affidavit dated 13 June 2017 that she was “one of the many white Afrikaners who resigned en masse in 1994 as she refused to work for a black ANC government before 1994”.

She then said Singh’s professed support for “a black ANC government” was “somewhat doubtful”.

In an affidavit of Wendy Watson, Regional Manager of the KwaZulu-Natal office of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to which Mr Singh was seconded, she stated: “The perception of the management of the TRC was that he was biased towards the IFP and he in fact offered to give an affidavit to an IFP attorney stating that one of the Human Rights Committee members was an ANC member.”

Singh replied: “Good riddance to you... your letter speaks volumes about your pathetic behaviour... you have made about 30 complaints... all dismissed as vexatious and malicious!

“The TRC records speak for themselves... not the views of your lesbian friend Wendy Watson.

“I can’t apologise for having a successful life and family... and better cars and houses than you will ever own. Your recent health issues was a form of karma... you should have learned from it. You can go to hell and good riddance to u!

“I’m only sorry I have to stoop to your level and respond.”

His attack on Watson is not strictly out of the blue. Watson ran the TRC KZN office between 1994-1996 where Singh was an investigator.

Watson told *Noseweek* she did not know Joubert but remembered Singh well. “I can only describe him as an objectionable, self-opinionated, conflictual person, who always has his own interests at heart before those of justice. He has the ability to start litigation and nastiness on every issue, and his letter referring to me as a lesbian is true but unnecessary and totally shows off his character,” said Watson. She added that, of the 140 staff she had working for her in the TRC, “Singh was the only person with whom I had serious conflict”.

She said because of his constant threats of litigation she had kept a file on him until 2009.

“He threatened me with litigation and the Regional Convenor, Commissioner Richard Lyster, and



Pietermaritzburg Magistrate’s Court

the late vice-chair, Dr Alex Boraine, confirmed that the TRC would pay my costs should the litigation proceed to court, which it never did. My opinion of Mr Singh was that he did not have sufficient integrity or skill to be an investigator in the TRC and I am

‘Your recent health issues was a form of karma... you should have learned from it’

surprised that he has risen to the role of senior magistrate as his ethical framework is, in my opinion, seriously lacking.”

Watson’s views on Singh are not newly formed. On 12 November 1997 she wrote to Archbishop Tutu, then chairman of the TRC, about Singh.

In this letter Watson told how Singh seldom arrived on time, often left work early, “regularly does not put in an appearance in the office for a day or two” and takes the office car home over weekends without authorisation.

She told the Arch she had called him an “arrogant young bastard” before apologising – not for her anger but for her reaction.

“He revels in any publicity that he can stir up. His ignorance regarding the [political situation in KZN] is a continual source of amazement to his colleagues.”

Watson recalled how Singh had “received gifts from perpetrators of violence in the form of a book... which he took the trouble to have signed by ex-members of the Security Branch who were responsible for the killings of activists”.

Singh told *Noseweek* in several broad statements that there was a cabal seeking to discredit him despite their own chequered histories and to stop him practising his role as a senior magistrate, often on the most sensitive of cases. He said this group involved magistrates, businessmen and journalists including a network in Pietermaritzburg of “old liberal, confused, gay, white people” – although, he said, he had nothing against gay people.

Singh said he stood by his comments on Watson and that his record at the TRC spoke for itself. He said he had received a commendation from Tutu via the Department of Justice for his work at the TRC. ■

IAN LEVITT ATTORNEYS

Your Future is Our
Business



The
African
Legal
Awards
2017

Attorney of
the Year (partner)
Ian Levitt,
Ian Levitt
Attorneys

Winner

The
African
Legal
Awards
2017

Specialist
Law Firm
of the Year
Ian Levitt
Attorneys

Highly Commended

The
African
Legal
Awards
2017

Litigation and Dispute
Resolution Team
of the Year
Ian Levitt
Attorneys

Winner

WWW.IANLEVITT.CO.ZA | INFO@IANLEVITT.CO.ZA
TEL: 011 784 3310 | FAX: 011 784 3309
19TH FLOOR, SANDTON CITY OFFICE TOWERS
CORNER RIVONIA & 5TH STREET, SANDTON

A STINK ABOUT A STINK

Environmental offender given green light. By Jonathan Erasmus

THE QUIET BOLAND TOWN OF Wellington – known for its vistas, wine, heritage and brandy – could soon add a waste-to-energy plant to its tourist attractions.

Operated by known environmental offender Interwaste (see *noses* 178, 194 & 209) the plant turns trash into gas for powering turbines that feed the electricity grid. The facility, which falls within the Drakenstein Municipality, obtained the environmental authorisation on 2 November to build a waste-to-energy plant, including a waste incineration facility.

But ironically, while the Department of Environmental Affairs handed Interwaste the keys to operate the Wellington plant, the very next day they were ordering them to padlock their FG Landfill site near Olifantsfontein in Midrand, citing major environmental effects including adverse health problems affecting nearby communities.

In December 2015 *Noseweek* reported on the FG Landfill. We reported that it was not only humans suffering the effects of FG Landfill's stink, but the local wildlife too, with birds dying and horses coughing. Residents told *Noseweek* at the time that they were convinced Interwaste was the source of their problems.

Interwaste blamed the smell on "aeration". CEO Alan Willcocks said in a statement that the bad whiff was the result of "food waste and waste from the food and beverage industry".

"Interwaste is diverting in excess of 1,000 tonnes of this kind of waste per month to a facility that uses it for the electricity generation through an anaerobic digestion process," wrote Willcocks.

But the authorisation for the Wellington plant allows Interwaste to build and operate a facility similar in many ways to the FG Landfill. It will accept large volumes of waste – more than the local municipality could provide alone, and will generate between 10 and 20 megawatts of electricity to be fed into the grid in peak times.

The authorisation states that the proposed facility will include an "anaerobic digester and direct combustion

plants" and that Interwaste will sell the power to the Drakenstein Municipality. The plant will generate this energy by extracting methane and biogas from a variety of waste to generate power during peak demand. Much of this gas will be stored for up to 19 hours a day under pressure.

Except there is a slight problem. The municipality terminated its involvement in the proposed waste-to-energy project on 31 May 2018 after a full municipal council meeting and resolved to "seek a negotiated settlement with Interwaste to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)" and to settle the "litigation against the Wellington Association Against the Incinerator (WAAI) – a local lobby group.

They said their decision was taken following "a decade of research, analysis and evaluation of waste-to-energy solution proposals, complaints and resistance by certain interest groups".

The council informed Environmental Affairs on 13 June 2018 of their decision. It is unclear why the application went ahead.

On 29 November the municipality said on its Facebook page that it "takes note of the [department's] decision" and that the "approval granted to Interwaste does not affect" their May council decision.

The project has a long history, having first been proposed in 2008, with Interwaste selected as the preferred bidder in June 2011. An MoU was signed the following year. It was recognised that the municipality's own landfill was filling up quickly and was expected to reach capacity in 2017 – or perhaps a little later with the

correct management system in place.

Wellington council records state that it was decided the only way that the plant would be affordable was if waste – a minimum of 6,500 tonnes a month – was imported from elsewhere.

Despite strong opposition from the community, Interwaste has made no statement since the authorisation.

Wellington Association Against the Incinerator spokesman Keith Roman called the decision by the environmental department "highly irregular" and further noted that the facility was to be built on what had been successfully claimed by the "Sakkieskamp Land Claimants".

He said key stakeholders had not been meaningfully engaged and had not been provided with critical information, such as the specifications of the waste incinerator... the project has very serious financial, environmental, health, and socio-economic consequences and we are shocked that the DEA approved this very poor EIA with major omissions," said Roman.

He said Interwaste's claims that they were unaware of the municipality's decision would not hold – as his organisation had told Larry Eichstadt, from Resource Management Services (RMS) which carried out the EIA study for Interwaste.

"Although the DEA decision is disappointing, it is not surprising given the waste industry's extensive lobbying. WAAI is going to appeal the DEA decision as we have a very strong case," said Roman, adding that like-minded environmental organisations such as Groundwork, the Centre for Environmental Rights, the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Earthlife, WWF, Greenpeace, and others will likely join their cause. ■



XOLOBENI: AN ASSAULT BY THE STATE

By Jonathan Erasmus

THE ASSAULT BY THE STATE ON THE community living at Xolobeni, Mbizana, in the Eastern Cape drags on as the Amadiba people are again compelled to seek the protection of the courts.

Northern Pondoland has been a hotbed of activism and violence ever since Australian mining company Mineral Commodities (MRC) expressed an interest in mining the dunes along their pristine coastline. The titanium to be extracted is required for components of tablet computers and smartphones.

The community won a significant battle in November when the North Gauteng High Court ruled that Minister of Mineral Resources Gwede Mantashe will have to obtain the full and formal consent from the Xolobeni community prior to granting mining rights.

However the Amadiba Crisis Committee which represents the affected community of Xolobeni also opposes the SA National Road Agency's (Sanral's) advanced plans to build a toll road along the Wild Coast, linking

Durban and East London. They believe the route for the highway has been shifted closer to the coast, cutting their community in half, specifically to facilitate the proposed mining operation. The action committee is now challenging these plans in court as well.

This time they are accusing the state agency of ignoring any input from the public consultation process and merely rubberstamping a pre-approved N2 highway project – splitting at least two rural villages in half – without their consent. They have said the decision by the department to allow the road to go ahead did not factor in the socio-economic impacts of a toll road to these impoverished rural communities. Sanral has been trying to build the toll road for the past 15 years.

“We are fighting over about 9km of road that we want moved and have always maintained we didn't want near our communities. This road is not being built for the people who live here but instead for the mining project,” said the crisis committee's spokesperson

Nonhle Mbuthuma. “We want them to move the road and we are making sure we object before they even start building it. There are five villages on its route and two are being cut through by the road,” added Mbuthuma.

She also said that, during all the consultation processes they were never told what route the road would take and only found out once the environmental impact study had been completed.

The villages that will be sliced in two are Sigidi, home to about 120 households, and Mdatya made up of about 200 households. It is believed 15 people live within each household.

The community's fight goes beyond just the road. They believe Sanral is compelled to build the road through these villages in order to make sure the Xolobeni mine is financially viable if and when it ever gets approval.

On 3 December they took Sanral and the Department of Environmental Affairs to the high court to have the decision reviewed and overturned. Geoff Budlender SC, representing the Xolobeni community, said the construction of the toll road would have “very serious detrimental effects on the culture, way of life and the future of the Wild Coast communities and others living in the area”.

Budlender said the decision in April 2010 by the Department of Environmental Affairs to grant authorisation for the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the road was also “fundamentally flawed” and should be set aside. He said the department had granted the permission without considering the socio-economic impact of tolling: “The deputy director-general and the minister took the decisions without meaningful public consultation with those who would be most affected.”

Budlender said that, while it was claimed there had been a public participation process, in reality the community was told very little about the location of



Minister of Mineral Resources Gwede Mantashe

the road, the presentations were in a language they didn't understand and much of the material was in writing, although the authors knew full well that many people in the area cannot read.

"The public participation process was a formalised attempt to tick the boxes of compliance, not a serious and meaningful attempt to engage with the local communities, provide them with relevant information, and elicit their opinions. Two clear alternatives – including upgrading existing roads instead of building new roads – were excluded right at the beginning of the process without adequate justification. For all these reasons, the decisions must be reviewed and set aside," said Budlender.

Arguing for Sanral, Chris Loxton SC said that, while everyone knew road access to the Wild Coast was "poor" the government "recognises and requires the development of the Wild Coast Road as a catalyst for the economic growth and development of the region".

He said Budlender had resorted to "hyperbole and emotionally laden language... without any reference to the papers at all". He also queried whether the applicants represented the will of all the people, noting that the Amadiba Tribal Authority had withdrawn its application to review the EIA. "The facts are that there are national roads throughout South Africa. They do not divide the communities," said Loxton.

Matthew Chaskalson SC, representing the Department of Environmental Affairs, argued that the long term effects on the community would be "positive" if the road were built. The department did not have the capacity, nor was it their mandate, to consider the effects of tolling on a local economy.

[The majority of the residents of Johannesburg and Pretoria have a different view, as Sanral and the government have learned – at great expense – in recent years. Ever heard of OUTA? See box. – Ed.]

Chaskalson also said the public consultation process was "extremely wide ranging and more extensive than was required".

Judge Cynthia Pretorius is expected to deliver her judgment in February.

Shortly before going to press, *Noseweek* received the following statement from the Amadiba Crisis Committee (ACC):

"Minister Gwede Mantashe and the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) are preparing a provocation in Xolobeni on Sunday 9 December".

"We have now received reports confirming that the DMR minister indeed intends to come to Xolobeni on 9 December.

"We have also received reliable reports that DMR plans to transport people from all around, even from districts in KZN, to convince the people in Xolobeni that they need mining.

This road is not being built for the people who live here but instead for the mining project

"A tender has been sent out by Mbizana LM for 'mass catering' in Xolobeni.

"No contacts were made with the lawyers of the Umgungundlovu Traditional Council and ACC before this. Our lawyers early this morning instead contacted DMR, stating that there can be no meeting in Xolobeni.

"We are shocked what the Minister is prepared to do. If people from outside are brought to Xolobeni to sign attendance registers, such people or the police may also attack us, as happened on 23 September. We appeal to ANC leaders who are not personally invested in Xolobeni mining to

intervene and stop this. We expect DMR to cancel these plans now.

"On 29 November, an imibizo at Umgungundlovu Great Place with 500 present decided there is no further need to engage with DMR on the matter of 'Xolobeni Mining Project'. This was also communicated today to DMR by our lawyers [*Richard Spoor Inc.*].

"The affected Umgungundlovu community has said No to mining for 15 years. We have now also got a judgment on 22 November that we have the Right to Say No. We instead expect [*hope for*] a visit from the Departments of Agriculture and of Tourism."

Nonhle Mbuthuma, spokesperson for the Amadiba Crisis Committee, says she has been in regular contact with the Head Woman, Ms Duduzile Baleni, and that they are both concerned about the safety and physical security of the people that they serve and their land.

"We are worried who the advisers of Mr Mantashe are, and what can be the pressure on him, so that he is prepared to take this dangerous step.

"If Minister Mantashe isn't pleased with the judgment he can appeal. It must be filed within 20 working court days from 22 November.

"We will alert the Human Rights Commission if the Minister does not cancel his provocative meeting," the Amadiba Crisis Committee wrote.

A day later the minister announced that he had cancelled his plans to visit Xolobeni on 9 December. ■

Gauteng marches against its own toll

IT IS NOT ONLY THE AMADIBA WHO are fed up with having expensive toll roads foisted on them. On 5 December, DA candidate for the Gauteng premiership Solly Msimanga led a march against e-tolls through central Johannesburg to the office of Gauteng Premier David Makhura. Also at the head of the march were Joburg's Executive Mayor Herman Mashaba, Midvaal Executive Mayor Bongani Baloyi and DA Gauteng Provincial leader, John Moodey.

They handed Makhura a petition with more than 50,000 signatures calling on him to insist that the M1 freeway e-toll contract would not be renewed when it ended on 31 December 2018. □



Solly Msimanga

Changing the game

Wits student Kamal Ramburuth-Hurt is driving a campaign to revolutionise the ‘irrelevant’ economics curriculum taught at South African universities. It’s called Rethinking Economics for Africa (Refa) – and it’s gaining traction. By Sue Segar

WITS POLITICS AND ECONOMICS student Kamal Ramburuth-Hurt, 22, came to the realisation that “something wasn’t right” while he was sitting in an economics lecture on how the labour market worked. “We were learning about bargaining power, unions and budget constraints but the neoclassical model we were being taught just didn’t make sense.”

It was 2016 and Ramburuth-Hurt was in the second year of his degree. He pointed out to the course coordinator that the labour market she was talking about was “not the one we live in”. He questioned why students were learning about a labour market model that did not apply in South Africa. And he complained of inconsistencies: on top of the use of microeconomic principles on a macroeconomic problem, recent research on implementing the national minimum wage (this was before the minimum-wage findings were made public) had concluded that it would not result in widespread unemployment as the textbooks had taught. Those findings conclusively proved that what we are learning does not make sense in countries like ours.”

The lecturer had agreed with him, explaining: “...but unfortunately we have to teach these models because these are the models used at the universities in the UK and the US. What if some of you end up at Oxford or a university in Europe? If you don’t learn this way, you won’t know this classical stuff and you’ll be behind.”

That comment made Ramburuth-Hurt realise that students were “not learning things relevant to our lived experiences” but simply because it is learned in the West. He decided their

economics curriculum needed to be decolonised.

“Most students do not go overseas after their degree or even after their honours. Most remain in South Africa or other African countries, having been taught a labour-market model that does not apply to their countries.”

In 2015 when the FeesMustFall movement kicked off, Ramburuth-Hurt was in his first year at Wits, having matriculated from Jeppe High School for Boys. As the child of long-time activists Karen Hurt, who

We need to be learning solutions to relevant African problems

is also a feminist writer, and Shan Ramburuth, he “didn’t think twice” about getting involved. “I was there every day supporting the students. It felt natural to join a campaign for free, decolonised, quality tertiary education.”

Ramburuth-Hurt became a Wits SRC member for 2017 and 2018. It was his involvement in FeesMustFall that convinced him free education was not enough. “The movement’s philosophy is that education must also be of a high quality. When you open things up, there’s always the concern that the

quality of education will go down. It is critical to ensure that education that is free is also quality education.”

Not long after his experience in the lecture theatre, Ramburuth-Hurt experienced another turning point. “We were looking at the Solow economic model (that of Nobel Prize-winner in Economics, Robert Solow and Trevor Swan). “This model talks about population growth and the role of technology and the relationship between capital and economic growth. I found it very useful. After the lecture, I went to the lecturer and asked, ‘If we were to plot South Africa’s Solow growth model, where would we be?’

“We had the most interesting five-minute conversation about where South Africa is and what we could be doing. We discussed this model’s relevance for the country – which was awesome as it gave me a good idea of what our economy needs in order to grow. The problem was, this was just a side conversation with a lecturer, not something in our syllabus. There was just no focus on South Africa or Africa or our experiences. It was all discussed in the abstract. I had a strong feeling that we need to make this useful information relevant to our country.”

He cited a friend “who got straight As in her final year” yet who felt she still had no idea how economics works in the real world.

Ramburuth-Hurt and a small group of like-minded students decided to take action. “One student did a class survey about the curriculum, then a few of us decided ‘No, screw it, we must do something about this’. We decided to start engaging with the university about curriculum reform.”

And so, in December 2017, their



Kamal Ramburuth-Hurt

organisation Rethinking economics for Africa (Refa) was born. It has fast gained momentum on campuses around South Africa through a combination of campaigning, events and projects. Their aim is “to connect people to discuss and enact the change needed for the future of economics”. They also “seek to make a meaningful impact in the university space by introducing plurality, critical thinking and a decolonised approach to economics, and “to make economics more accessible to communities outside the university space.

Ramburuth-Hurt also complains that undergraduate economics students at Wits and many other campuses “are not exposed to even one reading or chapter by an African economist, nor are we taught about the economic history of our country or the continent”. Most economics courses are only taught from the neoclassical perspective “even though there are in fact nine different schools of thought”.

He points out that none of South Africa’s mainstream economists predicted the current economic crisis in the country “yet two of our non-mainstream economists – well, there are two: Marxist macroeconomist Wits associate professor Chris Malikane

and Johannesburg economist Duma Gqubule – both of whom are heterodox economists [*outside of mainstream or orthodox schools of economic thought*] saw it coming a while before it happened. So the guys who don’t use the mainstream ideas were the people who publicly warned there would be a recession before the mainstream thinkers did.

“We have serious problems in our economy and we need to be taught as many schools of thought as possible, so we can approach these problems in a way that is critical, pluralist and decolonising.”

Ramburuth-Hurt bemoans the fact the “limitations” of what economics graduates are taught means they often go into the workplace with little confidence in their knowledge or skills. “We are stumped when asked crucial questions about our economy: What is the solution to South Africa’s unemployment crisis? Will a national minimum wage really cause unemployment in South Africa? What is the informal economy and how does it work? What caused the financial crisis and how do we avoid another one? What is South Africa’s economic history? How can we look at economic problems using Institutionalist, Austrian,

Keynesian, Post-Keynesian, Feminist or Complexity Economics schools of thought?

“These are key questions that are not answered in most South African undergraduate economics degrees. This limits our ability to problem solve and develop qualitative skills. Some academics have argued that, to teach one approach and to teach it without critically engaging its assumptions and implications, is to teach economics that is propaganda. Pluralism, the teaching of different approaches and schools of thought, is vital to a well-rounded education. The introduction of different approaches offers economics graduates a greater range of tools that they can use to tackle problems in the working world.

So, what would be appropriate models to teach in South Africa and what critical factors make the classical model inappropriate?

“We should be engaging on more ideas and publications of local authors – and of authors who have grappled with problems of developing and semi-developed countries.

“In Africa we need to be dealing with the way that concepts apply to African examples. We also need to be learning concepts and solutions to relevant

African problems. In South Africa, for example, we should be engaging on problems such as middle-income country traps as well as massive inequality and unemployment.

“We are not saying we don’t want to learn Neo-classical economics, but that there are other schools of thought that prove useful in addressing problems that the Neo-classical does not.

“I understand that as a recent undergraduate I may not know enough about economics to know exactly what a perfect economics curriculum looks like, however I know enough to be convinced that what we learn is not sufficient and lacks relevance. I also understand that the world is made up of institutions and systems of politics, sociology, international relations and psychology that affect decisions as individuals, households, firms, communities and countries. The economy does not exist outside or independently of these things. We want to learn how these affect economics, and so come to understand the real world. The classical model is inappropriate.

“In the macroeconomic paradigm we can learn from complexity economics and from institutional economics.

“Let’s take institutional economics for example. South Africa’s public finance is in crisis by all accounts, affecting the value we get from government expenditure. Another example is the importance of economic infrastructure such as water and energy. If not planned and implemented well it

could result in shortages that have a ripple effect throughout the economy. Institutional economics explains and offers solutions to these issues.

“There is another school of thought that looks at how the South African economy is dominated by men. Patriarchal practices affect the workplace through things like gender wage pay gaps and socially enforced inaccessibility to the economy for women. This creates problematic dynamics in our economy that feminist economics sheds light on.

“Marxist political economy helps to explain the dynamics of state capture, or why South African SOEs have been run badly – and used by politicians and businessmen to loot state coffers. It also explains the importance of trade relations in developing and resisting a dependence between industrialised and unindustrialised countries that stagnates development in countries on the periphery.

“There are other questions that are not answered in our mainstream education but from which we can learn answers in behavioural economics. For example, how do we improve the productivity of workers without exploiting them? How do increases in VAT affect the decision-making processes of the poor? This is important in our society because more than half of South Africa lives in poverty.”

Ramburuth-Hurt went on: “What about issues of land reform? How did South Korea enact their land reform

when Japanese colonial powers dominated the ownership of land in South Korea? What did Zimbabwe do? What can we learn from their experience? With engagement in economic history we can develop our economic understanding around the land question.”

In September, Refa held its inaugural festival at Wits, hosting more than 500 people from civil society, academia and unions as well as many students from UCT, UWC, Rhodes, The University of Zululand, UKZN, UJ and Tuks.

Students at the festival slammed the lack of pluralism in Wits’s undergraduate economics programme, saying this was unacceptable for a university that claims to be the “Harvard of Africa”. Other universities are in the same boat, they agreed. The students put out a call to action along with proposed solutions for Rethinking Economics for Africa. These included forming societies to supplement the existing curriculums and challenge the status quo and to “democratise” economics by making it accessible to all members of society.

So far, Refa groups have been established at Wits, the University of Johannesburg, UCT and the University of the Western Cape. “We believe we will have a Refa at every university in the country in the not too distant future,” Ramburuth-Hurt told *Noseweek*.

In the past year Ramburuth-Hurt and a few fellow students attended a conference in Paris on Rethinking Economics, where they met students from 30 different countries.

“Although our organisation came about independently of the international movement, it was an epiphany to see that a lot of the problems we face here are faced around the world.”

The year ahead will see Refa pushing for decolonised curriculums at universities. The organisation is also planning a workshop on a potential textbook for the Wits syllabus.

“We also plan a workshop to consolidate our views as students, as well as one with university academics to engage on the new curriculum.”

On his personal plans for the future, Ramburuth-Hurt said: “I would like to study up till masters, and then I am interested in developmental work. Whatever I do, I’d like my career to involve making a positive difference.

“No matter where I study, I will always come back home.” ■



Kamal Ramburuth-Hurt gives a presentation on decolonising economics

Too rich to pay rates

Rates crusader strikes at purse of Joburg's elite and powerful

HOWICK-BASED PROPERTY RATES crusader Rob McLaren is doing a fine job of making sure he is on fewer Christmas card lists by asking the City of Johannesburg to revalue just about every high-value property in Sandton – including homes belonging to the Chinese government and the family of Robert Mugabe.

McLaren has objected to 104 property valuations by the city-contracted firm Evaluations Enhanced Property Appraisals which compiled the General Valuation Roll (GVR) for 2018.

Evaluations – which landed the contract under questionable circumstances exposed by *Noseweek* (noses202; 203; 211; 212, 215 & 222), has, over the years, earned a reputation for massively undervaluing the homes of the rich and famous while loading steep increases on to the poor and struggling.

Much of this we know only because of the volunteer work done by lone crusader McLaren.

The 104 properties he identified most recently, were collectively valued at R23,956,435,000 by Evaluations. The intrepid Howick investigator reckons they should have been valued at three times more – in the region of R71,401,974,000.

Among these properties is Nelson Mandela Square, Nedbank's head office next door to the JSE, The Marc Towers Citadel, Sandton City and its Office Tower, FirstRand Towers, Benmore Shopping Centre and both the north and south JSE towers.

Depending on the category of building or property – be it farm, business or residential – and assuming all his objections and subsequent re-evaluations will be upheld, it could mean a further R600-million at the very least in rates collection for the city each year.

It is unlikely all will go in McLaren's favour but it is worth noting that his two most recent successes were for his objections to two of South Africa's most recognisable institutions – the Minerals Council of South Africa (formerly the

Chamber of Mines) building in Main Road, Johannesburg and the Anglo American Platinum building at 55 Marshall Street.

In the GVR 2018, the Minerals Council building was valued at R16,976,000 and that of Anglo American was R133,557,000. Thanks to McLaren's objection, the properties were revalued at R56,190,000 and R233,390,000 respectively.

McLaren, a Robin Hood of sorts, has several more feathers in his cap, among them the swanky and recently refurbished office block at 21 Girton Rd, Parktown, which was revalued from R27,137,000 to R84,376,000

Just by getting those three landmark buildings reassessed, McLaren has ensured the council collects an additional R3.7 million in rates for the 2018/2019 financial year. Over the five-year period in which the general valuation roll applies, and with a minimal yearly increase of 6%, this could lead to a sizeable injection into city coffers from just three buildings.

Municipal Director of Valuations Piet Eloff confirmed the change in valuation in three identical letters bar the property details, sent to McLaren on 23 November.

"After reviewing the objection [*raised by McLaren that the property was undervalued*] and reasons provided... the municipal valuer's decision [*was adjusted*]." He said the decision could be appealed by no later than 11 January 2019.

Anglo and the Minerals Council were asked by *Noseweek* if they would object.

Only Anglo replied: "...We will be objecting to the valuation as it exceeds the value that our property expert would ascribe to the property, given market related rentals in the area."

Another of McLaren's successes involves the property in Sandhurst, owned by the Hugh Roberts Family Trust. It was revalued from R34,144,000 to R96,000,000. The trust was scheduled to object in September but the outcome

is not known to *Noseweek*.

McLaren's sleuthing through the highbrow streets of Johannesburg has also led him to make several fascinating discoveries. In an email he told *Noseweek* it was "common knowledge" that the Sandhurst house owned by the former first lady of Zimbabwe, Grace Mugabe, was bought for R47m in February 2017, as recorded in the Deeds Office.

"What has not been reported is that the Joburg municipal valuation for this mansion is only R25,759,000 at the fixed date of valuation on 1 July 2017" – five months after the sale for R47m.

McLaren said that despite the high profile of the property, his was the only objection to the municipal valuation.

"This mansion is in close proximity to two properties owned by the People's Republic Of China, namely 25 Killarney Road (Sandhurst Erf26 ptn 2) which was valued at R34,557,000 and 24 Killarney Road (Hyde Park Ext 24 Erf 182) which was under-valued at R2,483,000 – to which I have objected.

"It is interesting that none of the residents in Sandhurst objected to this unfair municipal valuation," added McLaren. He wants the Mugabe mansion valued at R43m.

□ *Noseweek* first reported on McLaren's campaigning hobby in August 2016 (*nose202*). What is noteworthy is that back then, when he filed an objection to the valuation of the Oppenheimer family's sprawling Brenthurst Estate in Parktown, the family's legal representative expressed outrage that "an amateur enthusiast" should suggest their property was unfairly undervalued.

He set about persuading the Johannesburg Rates Appeal Board to throw the case out – which they promptly did – adding insult to injury by getting him lumbered with the R24,000 cost of the day's proceedings – an unprecedented decision.

But since then McLaren's successes have won him friends at city hall. Now they make special time for him should he come calling. ■

From another country

Winds of change: cyclones threaten Southern Africa's Indian Ocean coast. By Jennifer Fitchett

POWERFUL TROPICAL CYCLONES MADE headlines in 2018. In August, Post-Tropical Cyclone Lane wrought huge damage in the US; it was quickly followed by Hurricane Florence. Most tropical cyclones – the word is used interchangeably with “hurricanes” – of this kind originate in the North Atlantic Ocean, where they're fuelled by the warm Gulf Stream.

The South Indian Ocean has been relatively well protected, meaning that tropical cyclones are rarer in Southern Africa. Those that do hit the region tend to be quite low in intensity on the Saffir-Simpson scale used to rank tropical cyclones on the basis of a storm's wind speed and pressure: low intensity storms rank as a 1 on the scale, while 5 represents the most intense and damaging tropical cyclones. Category 1 storms are smaller in diameter (50-100km) and have a minimum wind speed of 119km/h, while Category 5 storms have wind speeds of 252km/h or more and can span up to 500km in diameter. There's ongoing debate about whether a Category 6 should be added to the scale.

As my new research shows, the trend in the South Indian Ocean is shifting. Category 5 tropical cyclones didn't exist in this ocean before 1994. They were recorded for the North Atlantic, North Pacific and South Pacific Oceans throughout most of the 20th century. But since 1994, Category 5 storms in the South Indian Ocean have become more frequent.

Based on the progressive trend over the past three decades, their frequency is likely to keep increasing. This is happening because sea surface temperatures are rising. Tropical cyclones require a minimum sea surface temperature of 26°C to form. These temperatures are being recorded more often and over a larger area of the ocean now than in the past. That's because the air temperatures that heat up the sea surface are rising due to greenhouse gas emissions.

Southern African governments must respond proactively to this new threat.

I established all this by studying a

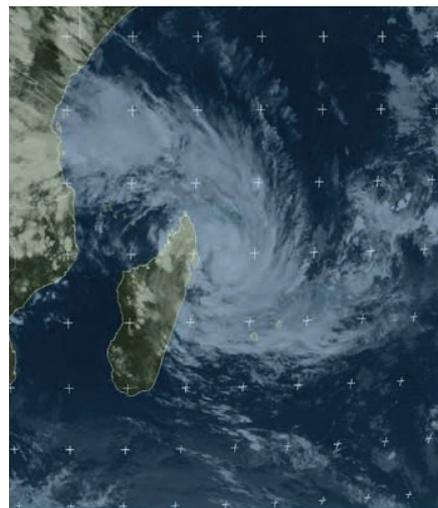
global historical database of tropical cyclones that is maintained by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

The research used databases and records from a number of sources. These include ship and harbour records for the 1800s and early 1900s, aeroplane reconnaissance records for the mid-1900s and data derived from satellites from the 1970s onwards.

The first recorded Category 5 tropical cyclone in the South Indian Ocean captured in this record is for the year 1994 – 70 years after the first Category 5 storm in the North Atlantic Ocean.

I found that in the last 30 years, there's been a progressive rise in the number of high category tropical storms. For the South Indian Ocean, my study found that a sea surface temperature of 29°C is driving the intensification of storms to Category 5 severity. And these very warm ocean temperatures are now being recorded over a much larger area, increasing the probability of these high intensity storms.

These Category 5 storms have also shifted polewards in their location of origin and landfall over this 30-year period.



Tropical Cyclone Guillaume, northeast of Mauritius and La Reunion, Indian Ocean. Shutterstock

This means that storms which previously existed in the equatorial waters of the central South Indian Ocean, far from any landmasses, are now increasingly occurring in the southern tropical region. That poses a threat to the northern half of Madagascar, Mozambique and to the islands of Reunion and Mauritius.

The last time a Category 5 storm hit southern Africa was in April 2016, when Tropical Cyclone Fantala moved through the south-west Indian Ocean, passing north of Madagascar and making landfall on the Island of Farquhar in the Seychelles.

Remarkably, despite being the strongest storm ever to have occurred in the South Indian Ocean, a relatively low \$4.5 million [R62m] in damages was recorded and no deaths were registered.

This is in stark contrast to the last Category 5 storm that made landfall on Madagascar – Tropical Cyclone Gafilo, in March 2004. The storm – which sustained tropical cyclone intensity wind speeds for six days – left at least 250 dead, the sinking of a ferry and left 300,000 people homeless.

Unfortunately, Southern Africa struggles to cope with the effects of even Category 1 tropical cyclones. This suggests that governments are ill-equipped to deal with the more powerful Category 5 variety.

But there are things that can be done to proactively deal with this new climatic reality. For instance, coastal buildings, roads and bridges need to be built to withstand the high wind speeds, heavy rainfall and possible storm surges to prevent costly damage to infrastructure.

Better forecasting systems need to be put in place so that cities and towns can effectively evacuate before a storm makes landfall to prevent loss of human life. Spatial planning needs to consider this heightened threat, and where possible, discourage development along high risk coastlines. – *The Conversation*

□ Jennifer Fitchett is Senior Lecturer in Physical Geography at the University of the Witwatersrand. ■

THE CONVERSATION

Artificial intelligence will save humanity, but does anyone care?

HUMAN ACTIVITY WILL ALMOST certainly push global temperatures more than 2 degrees beyond pre-industrial levels. Even with aggressive action, some climate scientists are suggesting it may be too late to reverse course. While there's plenty of uncertainty in climate science, there's no good reason to assume anything other than the worst possible outcome. And there's a lot more certainty in human behaviour. We're short-sighted, fight-or-flight driven animals. The threat of climate change is too distant for the human brain to meaningfully react to it in the here and now.

Climate scientists will keep running studies and modelling solutions that could reduce carbon dioxide levels more aggressively. And we should do that. But even with the most optimistic science out there, we will likely end up with catastrophic consequences on the ground, including widespread war, famine and an onslaught of disease. We need a backup plan like never before.

It's time for humanity to get serious about getting out of Dodge. Colonisation was traditionally a journey of discovery. Today it's a journey for survival. Of course, the path between our science fiction novels and a serious colonisation mission is rife with challenges. One of the most important and pressing today is our need for massive advancements in artificial intelligence (AI). Without AI, humanity's colonisation hopes do not pass "Go".

Sadly, the essential role that AI plays in our long-term survival is obfuscated by a roaring debate about automation killing jobs in the next five years. The benefits of aggressive investment in AI so dramatically outweigh the costs

that the only rational chess move is to triple-down on AI and all of its enabling technologies. [But see p28.]

The Chinese government seems to understand this. Its AI plan is so bold, so ambitious and so well-funded that most experts acknowledge it has the potential to reshape the geopolitical landscape for generations. Perhaps they understand what many do not: AI won't just save humanity in the future; it's doing it now.

NASA is clear that AI is the future of space exploration. The reasons are fairly obvious: wherever our probes go, they either need to be controlled from Earth – or have some sort of intelligence to guide even the most rudimentary decisions.

Even small decisions that the average person wouldn't think about, like choosing which areas of a planet are most interesting for taking pictures, are now made by artificial intelligence.

Last year, Google's machine learning discovered a new planet using NASA's archived Kepler data. Yet right after the announcement, Google felt the need to reassure

astronomers: "It's a way to increase the productivity of astronomers. It certainly won't replace them at all," spokesman Chris Shallue assured them.

Imagine that — AI had just massively reduced the time it takes to discover planets, to unravel the mysteries of the universe around us and light a path to a potential future home for our species, and somehow we're worried about jobs.

Climate scientists, too, acknowledge

that climate change is now a big data problem. If you're holding out hope that we can turn things around on Earth, the answer is pretty simple: We need more, and better, AI.

In 2017, for the first time, federal scientists requested funds to accelerate research into climate engineering, citing two areas of research: removing carbon dioxide from our atmosphere and increasing Earth's ability to reflect sunlight. This is the stuff of science-fiction novels – the data analysis and modelling tasks alone are massive – but AI makes it possible.

A recent report from the World Economic Forum cited opportunities to use AI for everything from smart grids to weather modelling and prediction, to biodiversity, agriculture, conservation and ocean health.

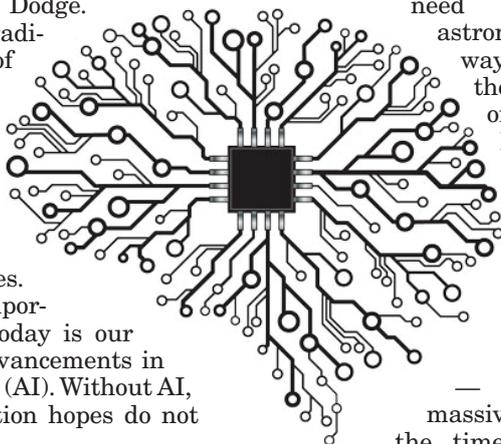
If you're less optimistic about Earth's prospects, AI is already playing a role in microbiome research, which might hold answers to the most daunting block to long-term human space travel: human physiology. That our immune systems change in space isn't just an interesting phenomenon – it could mean disaster for a 200- or 300-year colonisation mission. NASA has active research projects in this area, using AI to accelerate this research.

Consider the delays in communication with Houston as spacecraft get farther away from Earth. The farther we want to go, the more dependent our missions are on AI that can make accurate, autonomous decisions in the face of unexpected conditions.

It's increasingly evident: whether on Earth or in space, any solution to climate change, fight or flight, begins with AI.

Humanity is indeed making a grand bargain: we surrender to the machines some of our jobs. In exchange, we are given a second chance to make better decisions for future generations.

□ For a longer, referenced version of this story, go to www.ozy.com ■





The Fourth Industrial Revolution speaks Zulu

HAVE BEEN WRITING SCIENCE STORIES in Zulu lately. For a bit of fun, I used Google Translate to see how badly the platform would translate it, and I was pleasantly surprised by the intelligible result. Professionals in the South African translation industry are not as happy as I am about this result, and they are not the only ones.

The paranoid world, through the eyes of entertainment media, has come a long way since the days of the first *Terminator* film in 1984, which first gave voice to fears of a rise of the machines. These fears were very mechanical, imagining the chrome skeletons would liberate us of our lives and freedom through efficient violence.

While the menacing, chrome skulls still grace clickbait headlines about the dangers of artificial intelligence, the greatest fears today are much more personal as they affect our modern source of purpose and value: our world of work. I bore witness to this earlier this year, when language professionals shared their frustrations with the impending growth of AI, during the South African Translators' Institute triennial conference.

A few presenters told attendees that they need not be afraid as the disruption in the translation industry, as with others, will not be "autonomous"; it will not happen in a vacuum, but rather with us humans still in control. However, many 21st-century jobs have aspects to them that are repetitive or easy for a modern algorithm to learn and execute, which means we have to adapt to stay relevant lest we become obsolete.

There is no stopping the coming Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), it seems, and the South African government is readying itself through the Department of Trade and Industry. An article on the departmental website explains the 4IR as something that will "bring experiences unknown to humankind."

The most important jobs today have evolved and grown in complexity from the first industrial revolution when the mechanical loom was invented in 1784. The looming Fourth Revolution looks to demand more complex work from fewer of us, suggesting that, just maybe, we really will live in a *Jetsons* future where we can pursue more creative endeavours like genetically grafting wings to swine.

According to the DTI's Industrial Policy Action Plan, the government anticipates that "job families" such as architecture and engineering, computer and mathematical careers, and even sales are currently growing, while office work and manufacturing are in decline. The 4IR might just be the spanner in the works that unpredictably disrupts this current trajectory.

A document by the DTI titled "Seismic change ahead" gives the comforting message that many jobs are threatened by redundancy while other jobs grow rapidly in unpredictable ways. The document further states that you might need some ICT skills to stay relevant and "unlock new opportunities".

Chief Executive of Standard Bank Sim Tshabalala is optimistic about job prospects in his piece titled "South Africa in the fourth industrial revolu-

tion: A new opportunity to create more jobs and a better society". In it he paints a reimagining of South Africa that can bring us into a "truly modern, prosperous, fair and decent society". He sees the country's strengths such as entrepreneurship and growing urbanisation, as things that can be exploited to see our prosperous society be a reality.

In a paper in the *African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development*, Daniel le Roux writes that the current industrial revolution has brought with it an advancement in computing. Such computational advancement, he writes, also brings with it an increase in inequality in "previously egalitarian" economies, so I can only imagine what wonders it can do for South Africa.

It strikes me as a little disingenuous to be discussing the Fourth Industrial Revolution in South Africa, when it seems like the Third Revolution left many of our citizens quite literally in its dust.

As exciting as the notion of smarter machines may be, I realise that we are still not talking enough about the effects the 4IR will have on our already volatile economy. I suppose we have other things to worry about right now, a state of capture in our hearts and minds. ■



1st

Mechanisation,
Steam and
Water Power



2nd

Mass
production,
Assembly lines,
electricity



3rd

Computer &
Automation



4th

Cyber Physical
Systems,
networks, AI

Letter from Umjindi

BHEKI MASHILE



Please give the president a break

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! WE NEED TO give the President of this here Republic a break. It should be quite clear to all that Mzansi has moved towards playing a bigger role in the geopolitical theatre.

Yes, once again we have a temporary non-voting seat in the United Nations Security Council. For those not in the know that is a big deal for any member of this world body. We also have BRICS – you know, our economic formation with Brazil, Russia, India and China – in which we still have to move forward so that the organisation bears fruit.

And of course our president has grabbed the bull by the horns and taken on the worthy but rather monumental task of raising R1 trillion for investment and economic development. Already the man has announced an endeavour of R50 billion towards the same.

But despite that heavy load many of us still have the audacity to demand – not request, but demand – his intervention on matters such as crime. This includes the August 1 #totalshut-down against gender-based violence with women's marches against gender-based violence taking place simultaneous in every major city across South Africa, culminating in delivering a memorandum to President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Oh, please spare us, or rather spare the Pres. We certainly are not some small village whose every problem must be addressed by the chief.

And we are certainly far from a typical Third World country – whatever that means – where the citizenry must always be addressed by the

president for every problem.

Another matter on the political side is the EFF. The late American musician Prince sang a song called *Raspberry Beret* with the chorus: *She wore a Raspberry beret The kind you find in a second hand store...*

What brought these lines to mind were the cries of South Africans reeling from the economic woes we face and particularly the major hit we are taking with the rise of fuel costs. That, as we all know and are feeling has a domino effect on everything from the price of food to the daily commute.

On the subject of commuting, a commentator on a recent television programme said, "The price of going to work has risen so high that we are now working simply to earn money to go to work". Ouch! Talk about the truth hurting.

But wait, isn't there a political party out there called the Economic

Freedom Fighters (EFF) who promised to give us economic freedom? Well, yes, the little red berets (as I like to call the party).

What is my beef with the EFF? Well, you said it: we are paying so much for beef one feels as if one is buying a whole cow when you really only wanted a few kgs of steak – at enormous cost.

One has to ask: have the little red berets lost their spark since the ouster of Jujū's arch enemy, who had the Republic captured? A friend said it best: "These guys need to learn economics because clearly they have no clue about economics 101".

Not too long ago when speaking to my friends and colleagues at the Nose, I gloated over the scarcity of water in Cape Town. Well my dear Nosey Ones, I spoke (or laughed) too soon. It is now the turn of my community to have a water problem. So dire is our predicament that community members have been coming to my farm – I have a borehole – to do their washing and get fresh water for consumption

But herein is the problem: they come at night, in the morning, all hours of the day. But at night I'm like: "Guys, please, I have to get some sleep!"

Now what is a boy to do? I have to help the community, well, I don't really have a choice otherwise I am in doo-doo.

But I do not understand why are we having a water problem. We are in a rural area surrounded by mountains where water pours from the heavens and gushes down the mountain slopes. Alright then Nosey Ones, I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Right now I must harvest mangoes and bring them to the mammas to make achar. Cheers All. ■





Tea Party

NOW THEN. THE ANNUAL JESUS Jamboree being over, we must ask ourselves: What have we learned about that Thing called Life?

Well there are Christians and there are Christians. I mean there are those sonsofbitches who bedeck themselves with righteousness as they go about the earth plundering and butchering and shooting their mouths off about the god-given right to freedom, whilst their corporate media keep their populace brain-dead. Bush, Obama and Trump should be dragged off to the Hague and tried for war crimes, that's what.

But hang on. I mean you have to be defeated before you can be put on trial, hey? Like Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring, Luftwaffe Meister. His presence dominated the Nuremburg trials all right. During evidence on crimes against humanity he would interject every now and then with: Where is Bomber Harris? I have kept a seat here for Bomber Harris! Harris was chief of RAF Bomber Command, of course, who killed more civilians than anyone except Hitler himself, only instead of the gas chamber his instrument was the Lancaster bomber. And I remember vividly a movie shown to us whilst training to fly such a thing: the Archbishop of England with Good Book aloft blessing a thousand of them as they went off to wipe out Cologne including its magnificent Gothic cathedral, which I supposed was the House of the Same God as the archbishop's, to cremate alive 40,000 souls from its community. I mean for 100% pure 24-carat hypocrisy you can't beat a good hardline Christian, can you? Thought I. At 18. For that matter, I still think so.

Then again came Father McGuinness, but many years later. I couldn't guess why Father McGuinness should want to see me. Nobody was allowed to see me in Pretoria Central long term prison except my missus for only half an hour every six months. No body contact. Indeed my heart gave a wee leap one Sunday when she was just about due and Bewaarder



Gouws clanged open my door and grille and said 'Trek aan jou baadjie, kom, besoeker. But Bew Gouws didn't take me to the visitors' room where you spoke to your visitor through a thick armour-plate glass screen with small holes for sound, he took me to an ordinary cell, empty but for a small prison table and two prison chairs. There stands a small skinny man in priest's black raiment with thick jaggy hair on his head and small smile upon his lips. Bew Gouws stands to one side, according to regulations. Father McGuinness points to the door, according to God. Bew G looks at the crucifix dangling about F McG's breast. Exposing a Catholic crucifix to a Gereformeerde Kerk man is like flashing it at a vampire. Bew G departs.

Tea? says Father McGuinness. Bloody hell, I haven't had tea for two years, but there it stands, a teapotful, help-yourself sugar, a small jug of milk but only one cup. Formal courtesy, this lot, from the Prisons Department to visiting clerics. Would you like to say a prayer? says the father in a thickish IRA accent, if you believe in prayer, then? Never touch the stuff, say I, but I'll bow my head and close my eyes and sip an unlawful cuppa if you need to say one. Thanks, says he, and does that gesture with forehead and sternum and clavicles. Now then, says he when it's done, so what can I do for you?

You can tell me what the hell is going on outside, say I, I've been in solitary for 11 months. Aha-a-a-a! says he with some glee, and lays before me a good overview of the entire political scene like he's envisioned it 100 times, and I realise this is one seriously enraged Irishman who finally has found a real, physical, corporeal Satan to attach his hatred to in the name of his God.

After 20 minutes-or-so catharsis sets in and he sighs and leans back and sips his cup of cold tea, and at this point the door slams open, bang! and there stands Kolonel Aucamp, commanding officer, gross, fat, rugby-size. He glares at us gruesomely, the she-wolf of Rome and the Kremlin bear conspiring to overthrow the state before his very eyes in Pretoria's maximum prison! Father McGuinness steps up to his belly and looks silently at Aucamp's face and points at the door. Aucamp thinks hard and briefly, scowls hideously and leaves. F McG sits down to his tea. That got rid of that bastard, says he.

But it didn't, of course. Indeed F McG was never seen again. Aucamp comes to my cell on prison inspection next Sunday. If you try tricks like that again I will take away your food six days, says he, that's regulations, verstaan? says he.

Ja Kolonel, 'ksê, but he knows I'm laughing at him. ■

Smalls ads must be booked and paid for online. Book at:

www.noseweek.co.za



FOREIGN HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Loire Valley, France. Holiday home, near Loudun. 3 double bedrooms, washing machine, WiFi, large pool, spacious grounds. Enquiries twoblunumbers@gmail.com

LOCAL HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Klein Bosheuvel Bishopscourt, Klaassens Road, 200m from Kirstenbosch Gardens Rycroft gate. Tranquil B & B in an acre of gardens. Call 021 762 2323; www.kleinbosheuvel.co.za
Arniston Stunning seafront home perched on cliff top overlooking beach. Breathtaking position and panoramic sea views, 5 bedrooms, 3 en-suite, serviced; 082 706 5902.

LOCAL PROPERTY FOR SALE

Nosing around for property in Langebaan or the West Coast? Call Melanie Mouton-Creugnet; 079 378 0000 or melanie@sothebysrealty.co.za
Mabalingwe Nature Reserve 6 Bed Timeshare Unit, Week 12 FOR SALE R30,000.00 onco. Call Tjaart 082 929 7524.
Umhlanga, The Breakers Resort 4 Bed Studio Sleeper, Week 13 FOR SALE R30,000.00 onco. Call Tjaart 082 929 7524.

FOR SALE

Tinus & Gabriel de Jongh paintings bought, sold and valued for estates and insurance; 021 686 4141; dejongh@yebo.co.za; www.tinusdejongh.co.za
Tent Pro cc sells new army tents (5x5m and 10x5m) and dome tents. Go to www.tentpro.co.za or call Philip 082 537 2894.
Plastic pallets bought & sold. (New international legislation for exporting on wooden pallets! ISPM15); www.premierpallets.co.za or 083 756 6897.
Master Jack: Poignant Boer War story of love, loss, loyalty and hope by Cape Town author Nicola Hayward. Order from haywardhousebooks@gmail.com; nicola@hayward.com or call 072 455 0695.

LEGAL, INSURANCE & FINANCIAL

Lawyer.co.za is a new website for members of the public with extensive information about lawyers and the law in SA. Research the law, or find a law firm. Also available in Afrikaans at www.Prokureur.co.za
Certified Forensic Document Examiner / handwriting expert Cape Town. Signatures forged? Disputed documents? Visit www.fdex.co.za
Jurgens Bekker Attorneys, Alberton Commercial and litigation. Call 072 011 3670 or email megan@jurgensbekker.co.za
Jurgens Bekker Attorneys, Bedfordview Commercial and litigation. Call 083 294 9995 or email jurgens@jurgensbekker.co.za
Jurgens Bekker Attorneys, Cape Town Commercial and litigation. Call 078 989 2957 or email shelley@jurgensbekker.co.za
Jurgens Bekker Attorneys, Kempton Park Commercial and litigation. Call 072 424 3177 or email louis@jurgensbekker.co.za
Jurgens Bekker Attorneys, Pretoria Commercial and litigation. Call 082 776 8650 or email johnre@jurgensbekker.co.za

SERVICES

French lessons (Jhb) or translations (country-wide). Sorbonne-degreed native French speaker from Paris. For more information call 071 356 8279; or email christine.vaissiere@icloud.com
Argentinian Tango lessons Monday nights 6.30 – 8.30 in Parktown North, Johannesburg. Call Ralph 082 481 9400 or email Cheryl: Cheryl@tangospokeasy.co.za

WANTED

Your unwanted firearms, left from deceased estates or simply a bother to keep? david.klatzow@mweb.co.za is looking for a variety of weapons to add to a forensic collection used for research.
Wooden strip wood canoe. Willys jeep. Landrover series 1 11 111. Call 083 273 2014.

PERSONAL

Has Noseweek not dicked yet? The South African Post Office is totally and utterly dysfunctional.
Rose M B Resolution for this year: Spend a lot more time at No 9.



SMALLS ADS

The deadline is the 24th of the month, two months prior to publication.
 Ads are prepaid at R200 plus VAT for up to 15 words, thereafter R15 per word plus VAT.
 Please note that multiple (long-term bookings) are now available online.

BOXED ADS

Boxed ads are 6cm (1 column) wide, and are charged at R900 for the first 3cm and R250 per additional cm (length) plus VAT. Payment is due within 30 days of invoicing.
 Please contact ads@noseweek.co.za to book or phone 021 686 0570.

DISCLAIMER

Although Noseweek does reject obviously questionable ads, it can't run checks on every ad that appears in the magazine. The magazine doesn't endorse the products or services advertised and readers are urged to exercise normal caution when doing business with advertisers.

IT'S EASY TO SUBSCRIBE

Never miss an issue...Free delivery...Enjoy big savings

ONLINE Subscribe at www.noseweek.co.za or email subs@noseweek.co.za

PHONE Call 021 686 0570 with your credit card or fax 021 686 0573 or 0866 773 650

PLEASE NOTE: Cheques are no longer accepted in payment.

Apart from having SA's top investigative magazine delivered to your door, you could also win one of five Ken Forrester wine packs. Subscribe now and stand in line to score.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS MONTH'S WINNERS:

Brigid du Bois, Durban; Schalk Esterhuysen, Montagu; Ndumiso Nxumalo, Moreleta Park; Linda Nyati, Milnerton; Liam Robertson, Century City

QUALITY PUBLICATIONS CHOOSE A QUALITY PRINTER

COLOURTONE ARIES PRINTERS OF CHOICE

For all your printing, packaging and display requirements
contact colourtone aries on 021 929 6700 or

www.colourtonearies.co.za

info@colourtonearies.co.za



@colourtonearies



Colourtone Aries



COLOURTONE ARIES

print | packaging | display

