

news you're not supposed to know

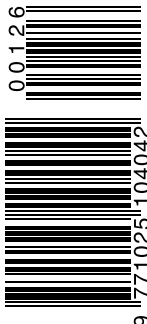
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# nosepeak

126

APRIL 2010

## ANC boss makes grab for Dubai cash



**How Nedbank manipulated the market**  
**MTN spies on clients** **Posh pupils take pops at passers-by**  
**The liquidator and the taxman**

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## Bullets over the Big Hole page 10

- 4 **Letters** Poisoned Wells
- 7 **Dear Reader** Futures shock ■ The Usual Suspects
- 8 **Notes & Updates** Point of no return ■ Money-oriented medicine? Surely not!
- 16 **Watching me, watching you** MTN spies on its clients
- 20 **The liquidator and the taxman** SARS has been losing out
- 22 **Honey, Nedbank shrunk the shares!** Ramping caused huge losses
- 25 **The suspect IT tender mystery is unresolved** Attorney-general's inquiry returns a soft report
- 28 **With conservation officials like these, who needs vandals?** In its battle to reclaim a dam for fishermen, Cape Nature has launched a dirty war on ducks
- 30 **Steenekamp cleared** Insurance Sector Education Training Authority manager may have been victim of disinformation campaign
- 31 **Extra-murals at Bishops Prep** Posh pupils take pops at passers-by
- 32 **Not stealing, just borrowing** Bank appointees help themselves to company's cash
- 35 **Books** Sepp's blather
- 36 **Country Life** Waiting till the cows go home
- 37 **Last Word** Lettuce Lady

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## Poisoned Wells

“Sold down the river” (*nose125*), which suggests that Transnet may be about to sell off real estate worth R200m or more, for just R3.5m, made interesting reading – but certain points weren’t surprising. Like the fact that the lease for the property, with its option to buy for R3.5m, was signed by Transnet chief financial officer Chris Wells, who is now Transnet CEO and earning some R10m per annum – a “fitting reward”,

was instrumental in mass retrenchments, and the removal of long-serving executives who challenged his methods.

**C Lemkin**  
Johannesburg

## Plus ça change...

“The War of the Wall” (*nose125*) underscores the view that bureaucracies don’t change. The name Bill Carter brought back memories from 1998, when the local residents’ associations challenged the South Peninsula Municipality (then run

The only vindication/satisfaction we got, was when the *Cape Times* published a photo of Carter’s own half-completed house in Marina da Gama, which was going ahead “although the plans have been approved only provisionally by a building inspector”.

Under pressure, Koeke-moer appointed a commission chaired by the wimpish John van Niekerk, attorney from Silberbauers Inc., to hear complaints from the public. For weeks we sat

(*nose124*), and sympathise with Gerda. If my wife and I had had the resources we would have sued the good doctor, following what happened in July 2004, when my wife, with severe back-pain, was attended to by Dr Miller at the Linksfield clinic emergency department. X-rays were taken and Miller noted that some years earlier she’d had “screws and rods” fitted to her lower spine. He advised that this was “the old-fashioned way” and they no longer did this.

A few days later he operated, and, believe it or not – his team fitted more rods and screws: over R30,000-worth of hardware alone.

During the subsequent five and a half weeks she was in Linksfield clinic, my wife’s condition deteriorated and she was in great pain. She was in and out of ICU several times. Eventually, because Dr Miller could not find the cause of the pain, he said the problem was psychological. Then the sister in charge had a new set of X-rays taken, and Dr Miller phoned to tell me: “Mr Wallis your wife’s back is broken, the top screws holding the steel works have pulled out of the bone.”

I quickly had my wife transferred to the MilPark hospital, where she was put on intravenous feeding for two weeks before she could be operated on again – to have all the steel work removed! On returning home she was confined to a wheel chair for a long time, but no longer uses it.

**Mike Wallis**  
By email

## Now you see it...

I read somewhere that the UK Serious Fraud Office have struck a deal with BAE, and are no longer pursuing a possible prosecution against BAE for bribery involving South

# There was a tormented campaign about the doings and screwings of the department

no doubt. This is the same Chris Wells who presided over then listed retailer, Relyant Retail Ltd in the period that its share price crashed by 90%, with many investors losing fortunes. Instead of honourably falling on his sword, Wells

by your much-mentioned pal, ex the Overstrand municipality, Jan Koekemoer) in a tormented two-year campaign about the doings and screwings of the Building Department. Bill Carter was then chief building inspector.

through 96 written and 163 oral submissions. I lost count after Van Niekerk refused to hear the umpteenth request to discuss a matter of neglect/malpractice “because it was not in his brief”. Which left us with the question: what was his brief, other than to run up a huge bill for fees?

Eventually the report and findings were discussed by the Exco of the municipality, whose cynical response could briefly be summed up as “take note of the initiatives taken by directorates to improve, and also take note of every other finding of the commission”.

You might wish to take note.

**Piet Erasmus**  
Fish Hoek

## Unsafe as Mike

Regarding “Unsafe as Houses” (*nose125*) – perhaps Durban city manager Mike Sutcliffe should himself undergo a lifestyle audit?

**Mike Jacobs**  
Claremont

## Hardware shop surgery

I read with interest “Spine-chilling screw-up”

**Gus**

## EMPLOYING GERIATRICS – THE INTERVIEWS NO.1



*“Well, I’m a slow learner, but once I’ve grasped something I let it go”*

# If it goes in Mr. Nose it goes under our gavel



Freddie Steenkamp's Assets, Belville  
Issue #17



Jurgen Harksen's Assets, Western Cape  
Issue #20



John Aspinall's Villa Romelia, Llandudno  
Issue #22



H Mohammed & Ass. Properties, Athlone  
Issue #55



Zorgvliet Wine Estate, Franschhoek  
Issue #57



PW Botha's House, Wilderness  
Issue #67



MKB Property Developments, Sandhurst  
Issue #77



Brett Kebble's Mansions, National  
Issue #90



Fidentia Assets, Western Cape  
Issue #92



Miko Rwayitare Estate, Sandhurst  
Issue #102



Nationwide Planes, OR Tambo Airport  
Issue #108



Conrad Gallagher's Properties, CT  
Issue #113



Dream Centre, Pinetown, KZN  
Issue #114



City Capital Commercial Properties  
Issue #116



Arniston Commercial Site, S.Cape  
Issue #116



Von Maltzen Mansion, Constantia  
Issue #117



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Ahead of the Game

African politicians and ANC officials, following a multi-billion pound contract to supply fighter aircraft to the SANDF. What's up? I think we should be told.

**Chris Martin**  
by email

*The UK government is as deep in arms-deal moola as ours. They rolled out the royal pomp for Zuma in gratitude for the ANC's having kept its side of the bargain by killing all inquiry in South Africa.* – Ed

### Not ponzied, thank you

I have established that the R7.38m paid from my trust account to the Investec account of Suscito Investments (Pty) Ltd [the ponzi operating account run by Dean Rees in conjunction with Barry Tannenbaum], as reported in *nose121* was the purchase price of a property bought for a client.

I cannot for reasons of attorney/client confidentiality reveal the name of this client, or that of the seller.

It would go a long way to restoring my good name if you would publish a retraction of my name as an investor in the ponzi scheme, and a brief statement of how I came to be associated with such funds.

**Jack Sherman**  
Attorney,  
Alberton

*We are happy to record your explanation.* – Ed

## More municipal madness

I've spent years trying to find out what lies behind the endless, outrageous demands for unwarranted payment made by the Joburg city council – the story you tell so well in "Municipal Madness", in *nose123*. I believe I have finally got to the bottom of it all.

For many years I've been receiving accounts from the Joburg council – either directly, or via lawyers – for properties I no longer own. These comprise: Various properties that were expropriated by the government in 1976; properties that were owned by a company that was liquidated in 1998; and two properties, transferred in 2000 and 2001, respectively.

Over a lengthy period I made concerted efforts to stop the flow of wasted paper, and see the end of this bad business practice with its outrageous waste of time and energy. When my queries and complaints were turned away at the ground-floor counters of the council offices, I went upstairs, first to the accounts department, then to the legal section – all to no avail. Then I spoke, or wrote to all kinds of senior people – including the may-

or, the local city councillor, the MEC for housing, and the Honourable Minister of Housing, Mr Mathews Phosa – again to no avail.

The standard "ground-floor" responses were "Tear up the accounts" or "Throw them in the bin". Upstairs I was told: "Give us copies of all the accounts and correspondence and we will deal with this problem." (That was in July 2008.) When I went back I was waved away, then treated with contempt by a certain Mr Perry Smith, who refused to take the substantial written information I had prepared. I had to force someone in his office to accept the information.

When I went to see Mr Greg Vermaak, a director at attorneys Moody and Robertson, who were sending out accounts and letters of notice on behalf of the council, Vermaak told me they wouldn't stop sending them as they were only acting on instructions.

Lately the accounts and notices have been coming from the lawyers mentioned in *nose123*, Van de Venter Mojapelo. All that's new is that now the notices and accounts don't carry proper references.

So here it is: I believe that

what is going on is that the council books are being intentionally "bloated", or "cooked", with "ghost" accounts. These lawyers, officials and councillors are involved in articially inflating the value of the council's "debtors' book", in order to hide the fact that it is either insolvent or near insolvent. It's perfectly obvious that those involved know these are fictitious accounts, and that they won't, in the main, be paid.

If I am right, this represents a massive fraud on the part of council officials and the attorneys acting for them. It also involves large-scale harassment of the public, in the course of which some victims may be frightened into paying up.

The lawyers' reward for their part in the fraud are the fees automatically charged to the council every time an (unwarranted) letter of demand or notice is sent out. All in all a very nice scam, bringing in a good sum every month. One must also assume that the lawyers are sharing the rewards with the officials and councillors. Is it as simple as that? I believe so.

**Name withheld**  
Johannesburg



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## Futures shock

**ON PAGE 22 WE TAKE YOU** into territory where few of us would venture voluntarily – the South African Futures Exchange. Why the need to go there now? Because some of its current inhabitants appear determined to sell our future for their own instant enrichment.

Suddenly it is vital to understand the basics of single stock futures – because it's a scheme that's been turned into a grotesque scam, by the likes of Nedbank, no less.

The bank has expressed no apology or shame for having broken just about every rule in the book in the process of (secretly) buying up 85% of the shares – more than a billion-rands' worth – of an obviously disreputable listed company called Acc-Ross Holdings, as part of such a scheme/scam. Their purpose: to earn R150m in fees, free of risk to themselves – and regardless of the certainty that they would, in the same process, cause over R2bn-worth of damage to unsuspecting third parties.

So comfortable have they become in their life beyond the law that they ignored the JSE rule that applies to shareholders when acquiring more than 35% of the shares of a company, and violated the Banks Act, which says a bank must obtain the permission of the registrar before buying a business. Now the Securities Regulation Panel is to conduct a hearing on the matter because Nedbank

might have violated its code on takeovers, and the Financial Services Board is probing alleged Nedbank manipulation of the Pinnacle Point Group share price. Pinnacle shareholders are suing for over R1bn in damages suffered as a result of Nedbank's ramping of the share price; they have also lodged a complaint with the Competition Commission.

Nedbank's dealings in Acc-Ross single stock futures cost rival Absa Bank R1.4bn, when it had to bail out the stockbroker on the other side of Nedbank's trades. Clearly Nedbank believes it owes no-one a duty of care.

But here's the curiosity: Absa is said to have decided, despite its R1.4bn loss, to "simply walk away from it all". What are we to make of that? Have the banks become a tight little club, a "self-regulated body" that exists beyond the law, whose members are free to collude far more than has been suspected? A club, therefore, that under no circumstances would wish to invite non-members to view its collection of stamps?

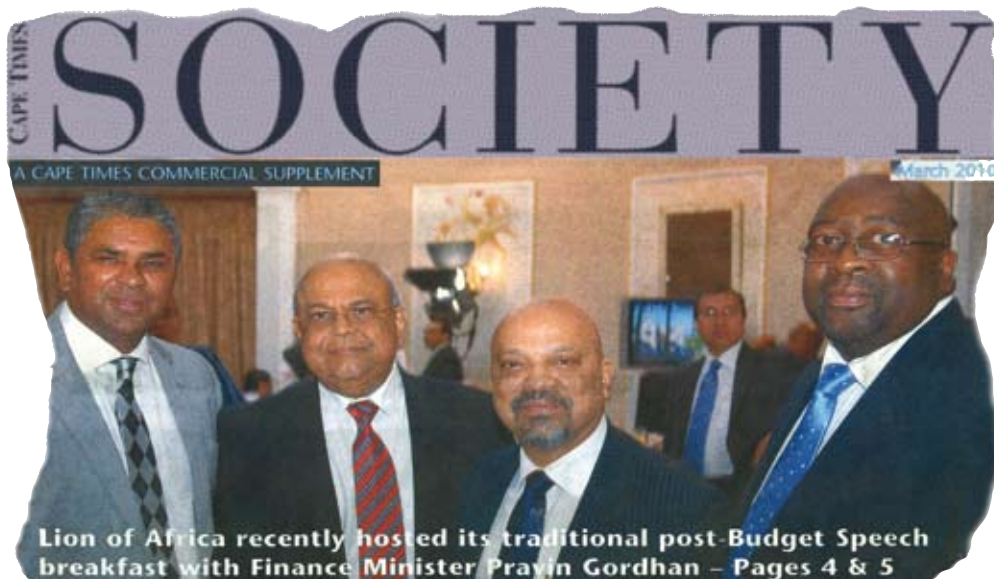
Our law-enforcement agencies appear not only toothless; more often than not their bosses seem to have crossed to the other side. Even the registrar of banks acts like a card-carrying member of "the club", when he dismisses the Acc-Ross affair as "a storm in a teacup".

Are we to conclude that in South Africa only the sharks have teeth?

## The Usual Suspects

**IF YOU EVER WONDERED** how Fred Robertson (pictured below left) was able to acquire an option to buy a R200m chunk of prime Transnet-owned land for a mere R3.5m (*nose125*), then check out who he parties with (left to

right): Minister of Finance Pravin Gordhan, Lion of Africa CEO Adam Samie and Deputy Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene. The four appeared in the Cape Times' Society supplement, for which Lion of Africa paid R30,000.



## Point of no return

**R**ENTING A REALLY COOL CAR might be a good way to make the the right impression on a hot date, or with a new client – but you'd better check the small print on what it might cost you. Cape Town's Cape Luxury Cars, which can set you up with anything from an Aston Martin DB9 Volante to an armoured BMW X5, or just a little Porsche Boxter or Audi TT, may have been "completely satisfying its multitude of new and many repeat clients since the company was established back in 2007 by Yariv Shmaryahu". But even the small print might not help you if you've just paid a hefty deposit for that Porsche Cayenne



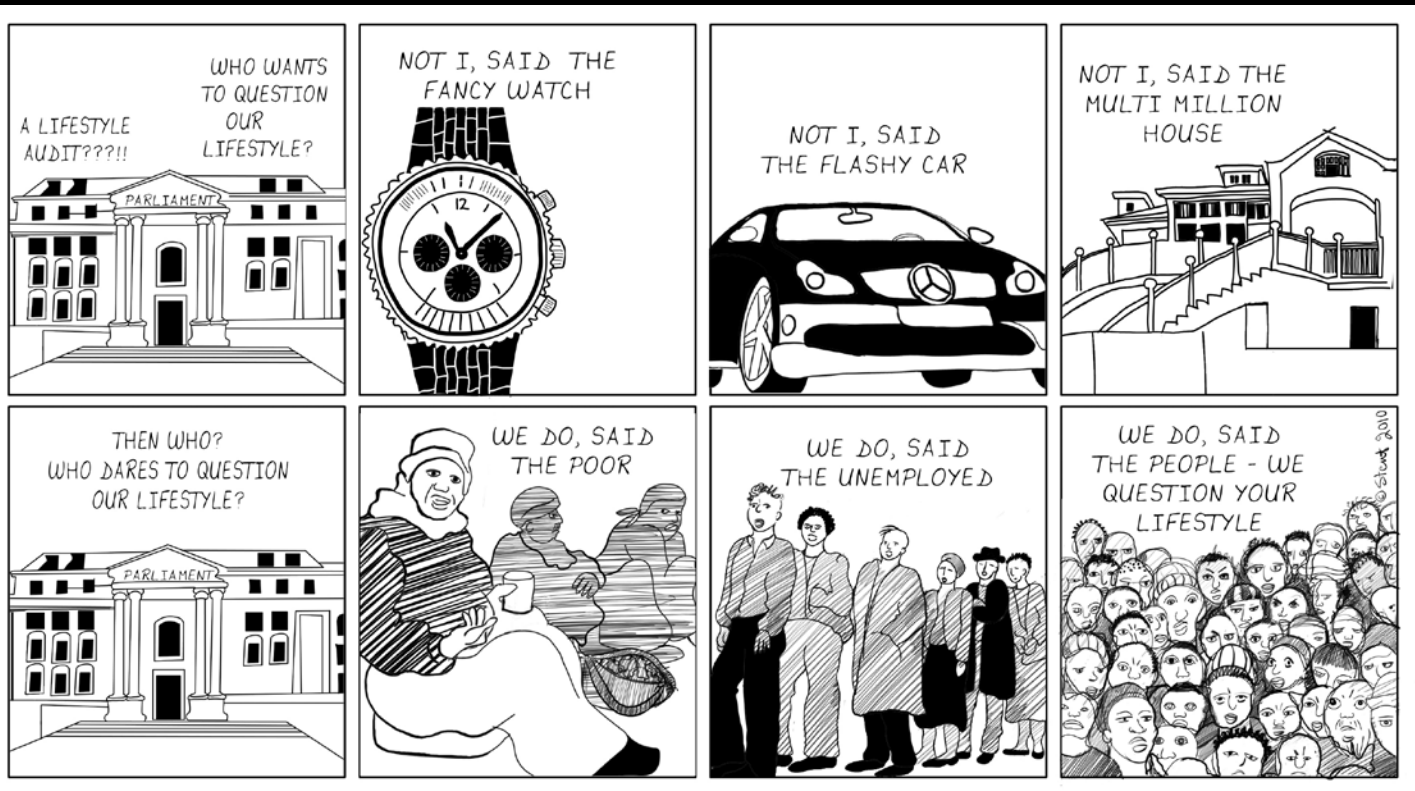
you've rented for two days to drive your German client around the winelands. Durban accountant Ryan Mathew found this out to his cost when he rented a Porsche Boxter for a weekend in November 2008. He dealt with

and in the same condition in which he received it, he didn't get his deposit back – Cape Luxury Cars came up with some cock-and-bull story about Mathew having failed to sign certain documents. Mathew had to sue for his money, and shortly before the matter came up for trial Cape Luxury Cars agreed to pay the R45,000, plus interest and legal costs, in instalments of R5000 per month, starting on 7 December 2009.

Unfortunately Cape Luxury Cars immediately defaulted, so on 2 February 2010 Mathew had the agreement made an order of court. And now Mathew is taking steps to attach some property – a nice car perhaps.

Alan Ribnik of Cape Luxury Cars, and paid R5,630 to cover the rental, insurance and extra mileage, as well as a deposit of R45,000, which he was assured would be repaid within 21 days. Although he returned the car on time

Cape Luxury Cars is still very much in business but we've decided that there are probably far better ways of making a splash – a fine restaurant perhaps. **W**





# Money-oriented medicine? God forbid

**N**OSE118 TOLD THE STORY of Gordon Webb, who died on the operating table during cardiac surgery. The surgeon, Dr JJ de Wet Lubbe, admitted to Gordon's widow, Jenifer, that he had accidentally nicked Gordon's artery, but within a few months the story had changed and Jenifer's bid for compensation came to nothing. It appeared that this was mainly the doing of UK-based Medical Protection Society (MPS), which insured Dr Lubbe. MPS even forbade Dr Lubbe to discuss the matter with *noseweek*.

When *noseweek* was recently sent a recent copy of *Casebook*, MPS's Africa journal, another light was cast on the matter. In a covering letter dated December 2009, MPS CEO Tony Mason tells South African doctors: "Despite numerous surveys showing that public trust in doctors is at an all-time high [...] doctors believe they are a profession under sustained attack. Not only is the press filled daily with sensational stories of failing hospitals, medical disasters and sexual impropriety by clinicians, but there has never been a time when doctors are under so much scrutiny, with potentially career-threatening outcomes."

Why, then, the apparent contradiction? Mr Mason says the problem lies with the public, who feel "that they are entitled to expect perfect outcomes – surgery will always be successful, a full recovery will be made and mistakes are unacceptable and must never happen".

Which is ridiculous, intones this deep thinker, because "everyone makes mistakes", and we need to get to the point where "doctors will not be pilloried for the rare mistake".

To achieve this, says Mason, there

must be "recognition and acceptance by the public that mistakes will always occur, and that perfect outcomes should not be taken for granted. Adverse incidents should be investigated in an open manner, with all members of the clinical team encouraged to speak in a 'no-blame' environment and with no fear of reprisals. [...] Patients should receive swift and fair compensation for harm as a result of proven negligence."

Absolutely. So why doesn't your company practise what you preach, Mr Mason? Dr Lubbe realised he'd made a mistake and admitted it to the deceased patient's widow. Jenifer, who certainly doesn't have unrealistic expectations of doctors, accepted the apology – in fact she

was profoundly impressed with Lubbe's honesty. Only when she realised that her husband's death was going to cause her financial hardship, did Jenifer submit a claim, knowing that Dr Lubbe would have insurance to cover just this sort of mistake. Yet she never received a cent.

PS: Mason observes: "The move towards the hard-nosed, thick-skinned, more money-oriented doctor has already happened in the USA, and has perhaps started elsewhere. If it gathers pace, then it will be to the detriment of society as a whole."

It happened here a while ago Mr Mason – and that our doctors are "cared for" by a hard-nosed, thick-skinned, money-grubbing insurance company probably contributed greatly to that development. **■**



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**K**IMBERLEY MAY STILL be a big hole, but at least it's a hole that's going places. The historic city, it seems, is being viewed as a potential growth point – what with a new prison and a psychiatric institute in the offing (besides housing developments and so on).

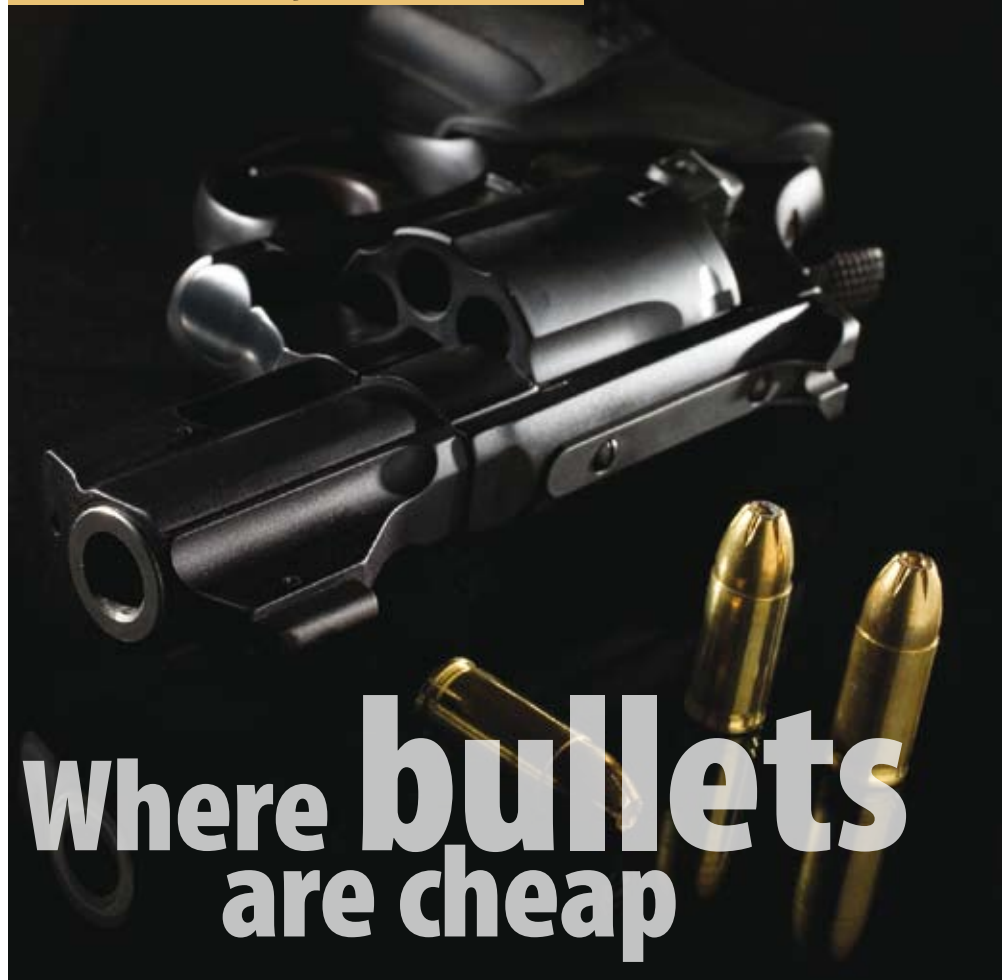
So last year, when Pretoria-based property broker Mandy Bakker was instructed by a group of Dubai investors to find an investment property in Kimberley, she was soon talking to property developer Tremaine Crawford. Crawford had recently bought a piece of land from the local Sol Plaatjie municipality, and was planning a low-cost housing development, to be known as the N12 Development.

The deal that Bakker and Crawford discussed went something like this: although Crawford was contractually restricted from selling for two years, Bakker's investors would inject R60m, and, on expiry of the two-year period, they would buy him out for a further R340m. Given that Crawford had bought the land for some R2.5m, and spent R13m on installing services, it promised a very good bit of business.

This had not gone unnoticed by certain local players, one of whom turned out to be controversial and influential Northern Cape politician John Fikile Block (*see box*), a man with plenty of useful friends – like former municipal manager Frank Mashilo, and property developer Louis du Plessis. The latter knew exactly what was going on at the N12 Development, because Crawford had appointed him to project-manage the installation of services.

In the end, however, Crawford wasn't able to finalise the deal with Bakker – although he'd spent R13m on putting in services, he hadn't actually paid the council the purchase price of R2.5m. Apparently his attorney, Deon Rossouw, of Honey Inc in Bloemfontein, had advised him to withhold payment until he had been provided with a consolidation diagram. (When *noseweek* asked Crawford if it was not highly risky to spend R13m on services before taking transfer, he said he'd had no reason to doubt that all would go according to plan).

Thus it was that on 5 Feb 2009 the council formally cancelled the sale for lack of payment. (Crawford alleges that this happened not long after attorney Rossouw stopped taking his



A lucrative deal in the Northern Cape, involving Dubai millions, took a nasty turn, culminating in surveillance of the property agent's cell phone calls and sinister threats



calls.) A rumour was soon spreading that the land had been sold to John Block, but Crawford wasn't sure what was going on, because he was suddenly visited by two of Block's henchmen

– George Mshiza and Philip Mahau – who offered him R8m for the property. When Crawford indicated that he wasn't interested, the duo quietly mentioned that “bullets are cheap”. Undeterred, the developer found himself a new lawyer, and was soon dealing with, Stoffel de Jager, of a firm that's called Engelsman, but whose letterhead suggests it hasn't seen one of those for some time.

Now *ou* Stoffel's advice to Crawford went something like “don't worry my friend, we'll get this sorted”. For a while it looked like he was right: in early July 2009, Crawford phoned Mandy Bakker in high spirits to say that he'd just had a meeting with the

great and the good of the Northern Cape – Premier Hazel Jenkins, ANC Northern Cape secretary-general Zamani Saul and John Block himself – and Saul would instruct municipal manager Mashilo to reinstate Crawford’s deal, if for no reason other than that the ANC did not want any more scandals in the Northern Cape.

Bakker, however, wasn’t taking anything at face value, and her initial enquiries indeed suggested that Crawford was being a little optimistic. For example, Mike Steyn, of the council’s legal department, told her that the agreement with Crawford had definitely been cancelled – and that Crawford had not in fact installed any services (Bakker asked Steyn to confirm this in writing, but he failed to do so). Bakker went back to Crawford and told him to sort out his problems with the council.

She then decided she needed a Plan B, phoned some estate agents in Kimberley, and got a referral to property developer Louis du Plessis. At that point, of course, she had no idea that Du Plessis had project-managed the provision of services for Crawford. When Du Plessis told her that he owned exactly the kind of property she was looking for, Bakker decided that it was time to savour the delights of Kimberley. So she made the journey from Pretoria, and on 20 July 2009 met Du Plessis and two men he described as his partners, Attie van Nel and Deon Rossouw (Crawford’s ex-attorney). The way Bakker tells it, this was a fine show of three country boys doing their damndest to impress an out-of-towner, with Du Plessis doing most of the talking, and Van Nel and Rossouw nodding furiously as required.

Du Plessis boasted that he was well connected at the (very political) council, and had managed to buy the property at a time when there was a moratorium on property sales. He was proud to say that it had township approval, that all the services were in, and that he had been working on the property for some two and a half years. He also told Bakker that she would be able to start developing the land immediately. The only cloud on the horizon was the existence of a fourth partner who wasn’t very keen to sell. But for the right price – who knows..?

So a deal was struck – R25m for the land and R3.5m for the services

that had been installed – R28.5m in total. On 22 July 2009 Rossouw faxed to Bakker at her hotel an offer to purchase. The agreement showed the seller as Silver Lake Trading 652 (Pty) Ltd, a name she didn’t know, represented by one BM Pretorius of Bloemfontein, another name she didn’t recognise, but whom she assumed was the fourth partner. She was told that Pretorius was in Gauteng, and would be back in the afternoon to countersign the agreement.

Bakker signed the offer, faxed it back to Rossouw, and, sure enough, later that afternoon, received a coun-

tersigned document, signed by BM Pretorius. The next day Bakker received the Township Layout she had requested from Rossouw – and got a nasty shock. It was immediately obvious that the land she was buying from Silver Lake was none other than the N12 Development property Crawford had tried to sell her. The name Crawford Estate even appeared on the document.

Seriously worried, Bakker went

## ALL SINGING ANC HARD MAN OF THE NORTH

**J**OHAN FIKILE BLOCK is an ANC Northern Cape stalwart; now MEC for Finance Economic Affairs and Tourism, and the ANC’s Northern Cape provincial chairperson, his former positions have included ANC NEC Youth League member, ANC Northern Cape provincial secretary, and Northern Cape MEC for Transport, Roads and Public Works, a position he gave up after allegations that he had abused travel and accommodation privileges, to the tune of R50,000, which included a stay in a five-star hotel in Stellenbosch and attendance at the North Sea Jazz Festival. Block has also been implicated in a tender scandal involving businessman Charles Modise. Unlike many other politicians, Block confessed his sins and asked for forgiveness, which he appears to have received – at one time some of his followers placed a full page ad in a newspaper, saying “Hands off John Block”.

Block is very much in the Zuma and Malema populist mould, and is apparently friendly with both (he was a guest at Julius’s party last year that so horrified his Sandown neighbours).

During the recent focus on government employees’ cars, it came to light that Block drives an Audi Q7, but that he was looking to replace it with a Mercedes ML500 worth



Picture: Izell Muller (Diamond Fields Advertiser)

some R770,000. Block is a director of a large number of companies in the Northern Cape, including Upington Super Salt, Osib Property Development, Siber Investments, Effuma Energy Solutions and Suid-Afrikaanse Soutwerke (a court recently held that this company had operated with a forged mining licence).

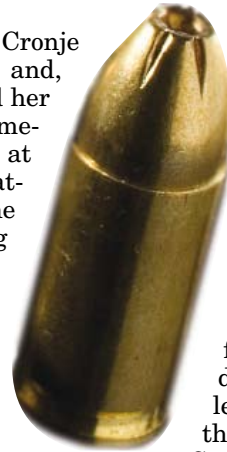
Block has a reputation as a hard man, something he tries to soften in his entry in the Northern Cape Government website, which records that he enjoys “reading, poetry and music”.

to see the acting municipal manager, one Luanne Fouche. What, she asked, was the status of her deal with Silver Lake? According to Bakker, Luanne Fouche simply crumbled: Yes, she said, this is the same land Crawford bought, and no, I've never heard of Silver Lake Trading 652. She told Bakker that after the Crawford deal was cancelled the council sold the property to John Block's Fast Pulse Trading 534 (Pty) Ltd. Block, she added, was very close to her boss Frank Mashilo. She said she thought Bakker had been conned, but pleaded with her not even to talk about lodging a criminal complaint. These are very dangerous people, she told Bakker – you'll leave Kimberley dead.

(CIPRO records reveal that Block is

entitled to sell the property. Cronje avoided her like the plague, and, when he simply couldn't avoid her calls any longer, mumbled something about having to look at his files. When Bakker threatened to lodge fraud charges, he begged her not to do so, saying "that's really not necessary". (Luanne Fouche subsequently told Mandy that Cronje thought the council might have to cancel the deal with Fastpulse, that Cronje was "very nervous" of John Block, and that Cronje had supper with Block and "some Absa people" on the very night that Bakker had spoken to him.)

When Bakker got around to telling



criminal charges against Du Plessis, Attie van Nel, Rossouw and everybody else she thought were part of the scheme to defraud her. She says that when she mentioned John Block, the officer taking the statement looked very nervous. Needless to say, the complaint went nowhere. In fact it was all quite odd – the day after Bakker left Kimberley, Crawford phoned to say that the head of the Northern Cape Commercial Branch, Willie Mahlangu, wanted her cell number. Mahlangu then phoned Bakker and told her that an officer called Strydom would be in charge.

Strydom then phoned Bakker to say documents had been secured through police raids and that Oban Cronje had made a statement. Both these assertions turned out to be false. Strydom was taken

off the case, and that's the last Bakker heard of him.

Almost immediately on her return to Pretoria, Bakker started getting anonymous calls: some were plain silly, like "there's nice property available in Kimberley"; some were slightly worrying, like "you must choose sides", "the charges won't stick", "Block will sort this out" and "the police won't do anything, they're giving the parties time to sort the documents"; but others were downright scary, like "do you know where your children are?"

After informing the Silverton police station of the matter, Bakker quickly moved to Johannesburg, where she now lives in fear. She has imposed on her two children a "thirty-minute rule": they must be ready to leave home, with their essential possessions, at thirty minutes' notice.

Bakker tried to get help from the DA's Dianne Kohler-Barnard, but she apparently did nothing – she didn't even say "fuck" this time – so eventually Bakker turned to the ANC's Max Ozinsky (who has a reputation for being independent and anti-corruption). She claims that Ozinsky told her to get police protection pronto, because Block is very bad news, but Ozinsky told *noseweek* that he simply "spoke to Bakker in general terms about the police, the NPA, and the Hawks".

Attorney Deon Rossouw continued to act rather suspiciously. Despite the

## Mandy quickly moved to Johannesburg, where she now lives in fear

not actually a director of Fast Pulse Trading 534, although his sidekicks George Mshiza and Philip Mahau are, along with one Cheryl-Ann Fikile.)

Bakker's a tough cookie from the Big Smoke and not easily scared off by a bunch of country bumpkins. So she went to see the council's external lawyer, one Oban Cronje of the firm Van de Wall Attorneys. Again, all she wanted to know was whether Silver Lake was

Tremaine Crawford that Du Plessis and his pals had "sold" the N12 property to her, Crawford acted like greased lightning: on 30 July he obtained an interim court order interdicting the council from alienating the land. The court return day fell away because the council threw in the towel – primarily, Bakker thinks, to keep the matter out of the spotlight.

Before leaving town, Bakker lodged



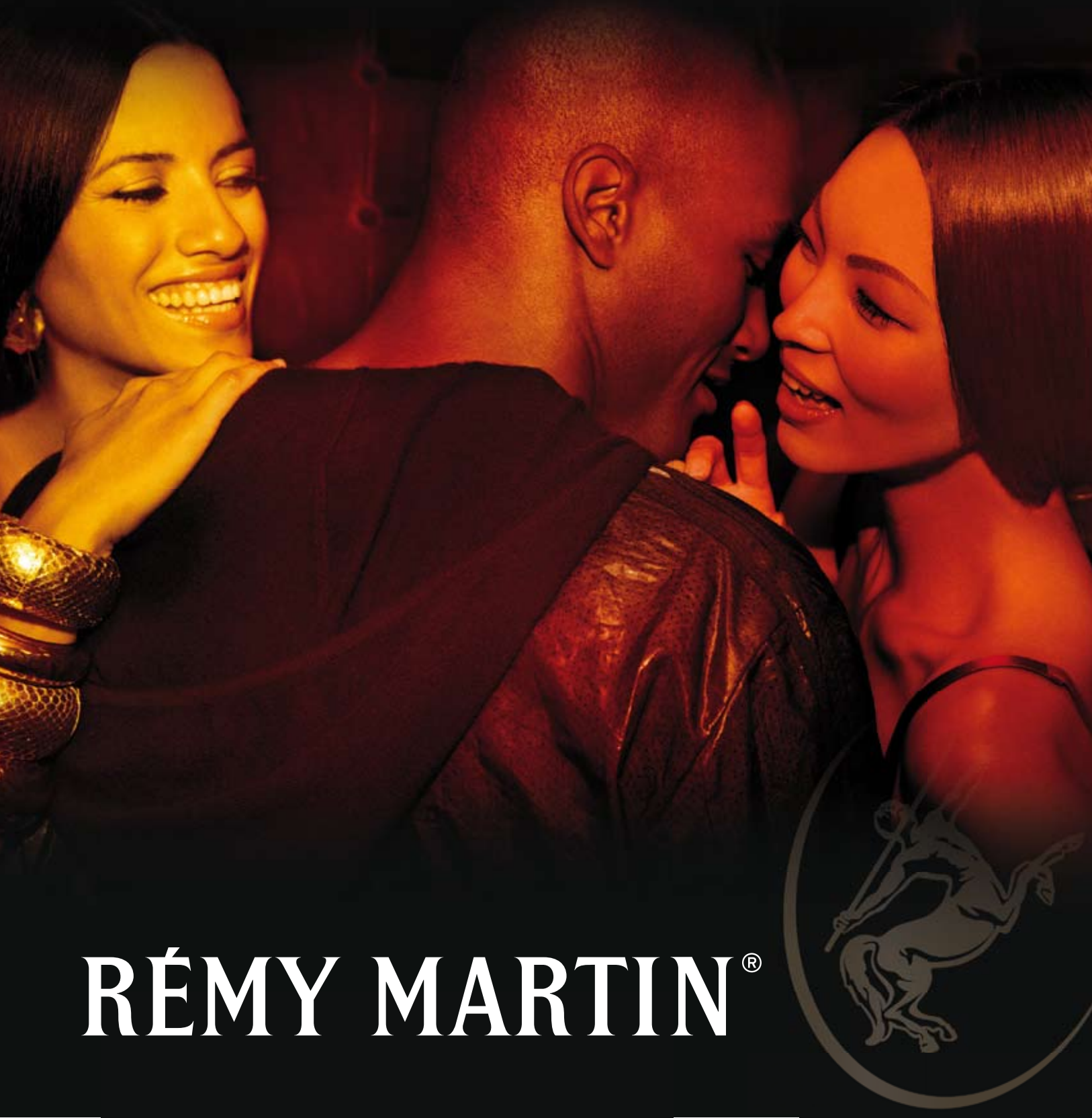
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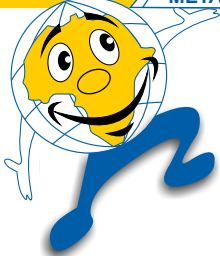
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fact that the court issued an interim interdict on 31 July 2009, preventing the alienation of the land, he kept hassling Bakker for payment of the R28.5m: on 6 August 2009 he sent her a formal demand, and on 18 August 2009 another. When Bakker tried to involve Rossouw's senior partner, Mr Saffy, to help sort out the problem, Rossouw threatened Bakker with defamation charges, and, finally, he managed to get a court order (without notice to Bakker) from Judge Hanke in Bloemfontein, ordering Vodacom to release Bakker's cellphone records.

Vodacom told Bakker that the attorney had insisted on knowing which beacons were picking up her calls, in order to establish where she was. Vodacom claimed that he had threatened them with contempt if they didn't enforce the order, despite the fact that they had received only a copy.

When Bakker wrote to Judge Hanke to say that he had put people's lives at risk by granting the order, his Lordship helpfully suggested that she consult an attorney. Bakker then lodged a complaint against Rossouw with the Free State Law Society, but we won't bother to tell you what happened with that.

Bakker thinks that she's finally pieced together the main lines of what happened: John Block and Louis du Plessis were seriously jealous of Crawford's great investment, so Block persuaded the council to cancel Crawford's deal and sell the property to his company, Fast Pulse – cheaply too: R2.1m for land that already had services installed; then, when a big-city property broker representing investors from Dubai suddenly fell into Du Plessis' lap, a plan was quickly hatched – Block would sell it to Du Plessis, who would sell it on to Bakker. So quickly were things arranged that, on the very day (22 July 2009) that Bakker signed the offer to purchase from Silver Lake, Du Plessis' accountant, BM Pretorius, flew to Pretoria to buy Silver Lake (a shelf company) and record himself as a director, coming back that afternoon to countersign the agreement. That same day Silver Lake bought the property from Fast Pulse for R12m.

The documents that have come to light are very suspicious and may well have been created after the event (when the police were supposed to be investigating). The agreement in terms of which Fast Pulse acquired

the land from the council was signed by Mashilo, on behalf of the council, simply with the letter "H" and this was undated, whereas George Mshiza, who signed for Fast Pulse, apparently signed on 6 April 2009. The agreement between Fast Pulse and Silver Lake, supposedly concluded on 22 July 2009, wasn't even signed by the seller, Fast Pulse.

Deon Rossouw had a curious explanation. He claimed that he was never a partner in the deal, simply an attorney, and that, having been relieved of his mandate by Crawford, he acted for Du Plessis in a deal to buy the property for R12m from Fast Pulse, where the terms were agreed with Fast Pulse's attorney in Kimberley on 20 July 2009. (He didn't mention that Fastpulse was represented by the same law firm as the council.) On the way to that meeting, Du Plessis told Rossouw that he also had a buyer for the property, so they went off and met with Mandy Bakker and did another deal for R28.5m.

Rossouw insists that both agreements were signed on 22 July 2009, with the one between Fast Pulse and Silver Lake being signed first. Rossouw did not deny that Silver Lake was itself bought on the very day it apparently bought and sold the property, or that he had tried to persuade Bakker to pay, even after the interim interdict was issued. He suggested that the return day for the interdict is yet to come, but it seems clear that the matter is void.

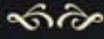
On the issue of his harassment of Bakker, Rossouw said that a defamatory email, which he believed had emanated from Bakker, had done the rounds, and that he therefore got an order requiring Vodacom to reveal all numbers linked to the data card used for sending the email.

The only person in Kimberley that *noseweek* managed to reach on the phone was Luanne Fouche – but she sounded absolutely petrified and refused to talk. Perhaps the next blockbuster science-fiction horror movie should be set in Kimberley, with brain-eating ghouls rising from the Big Hole to empty the city of all remaining intelligent life.

Mandy Bakker is consulting with a large Johannesburg law firm to see if she can bring a civil action. She feels that she needs a judgment in her favour to restore her reputation in the industry. **W**



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# Watching me, watching you

## MTN's spying game

**M**ANY READERS, NO DOUBT, have had this experience: you buy an internet bundle for a reasonable monthly fee, you politely stay within the monthly limit, and then, one month, you go a little over, and *voilà* – you're hit with a bill that really hurts and which bears absolutely no relation to the monthly fee. You kick and scream but the response is “read the small-print, sucker”.

It happened to MTN user Clive Varejes last November, but in his case the usual kicking and screaming took the experience to new levels of outrage. Opening his MTN bill, Varejes discovered that on top of the standard monthly R249 for one gigabyte, he was being billed an additional R3,912 – for an extra 0.6 gigs. He reported the matter to MTN and finally found himself talking to an agent. He accused MTN of moral bankruptcy for applying such

When a client  
complained  
about his massive  
bill, the company  
threatened to  
expose that he'd  
been surfing  
porn sites

exorbitant rates to the excess usage, and threatened to go to the media with the story.

Oh but sir, came the agent's response, you don't want to do that, because then it will become public knowledge that you've been looking at porn sites. A flabbergasted Varejes replied that he couldn't care less what his adult son, visiting from the UK, did with his time. (The son had been visiting Granny, for whom Varejes had taken out the ADSL contract, and it was he who had gone over the limit.)

In response to this threat, Varejes wrote to MTN managing director Tim Lowry to complain that the company relied on “the microscopic print at the back of the contract” to get away with charging over-inflated fees, and expressing “total shock and repugnance” at the threat made against him, which, he felt, amounted to blackmail. He continued: “I hope that this is an aberration and an isolated incident; however, if I do not receive a satisfactory explanation and an unqualified assurance that this type of thing will never happen again and is not a practice MTN is prepared to tolerate [...] I will lay a charge with the SAPS.”



*Noseweek* isn't sure Varejes would have got very far at the local SAPS charge desk, but we can be sure that, were a charge of blackmail successfully laid, it would never reach court – unless Varejes had a spare R1m (at least) to hand over to attorneys, in the interests of taking a fleabite at the elephant's foot.

Managing directors don't, of course, deal with trivia like customer complaints, so an MTN factotum by the name of Paul Rozycki entered the fray. Rozycki did try to contact Varejes, but without success, for which Varejes apologised in a way that would only make sense to South Africans: "The Telkom number is now non-existent as the cables were stolen yet again and Telkom refuses to replace them. I have thus moved offices and my new Telkom number is ... That is until these cables are stolen as well."

Rozycki then emailed Varejes to explain the mechanisms of his monthly package and why the service wasn't terminated on reaching the cap. But with regard to the threat, Rozycki showed no more understanding of the ethics of the situation than the MTN agent who'd made the original threat. He declared that he'd listened to the recording of the conversation and

that, in response to Varejes's threat to go public, "the agent countered, advising that it is your right, but based on what the data was used for he is sure that you would not want that to surface".

Rozycki also gave his own thoughts on watching porn: "Though this is not unnatural, not everyone likes this to be public, hence the agent's comment." But, he hastened to add, "by no means would we simply dish out confidential information of this nature".

Varejes told Rozycki he was being disingenuous – the agent did not *imply* that the porn usage *might* become



examine the usage on the router, as I am sure you are well aware. [...] Thank you for your magnanimous offer to increase the size of my data bundle; please rest assured that the numbers in question shall be cancelled at the earliest opportunity."

*Noseweek* asked Veli Mabena, MTN's general manager of Brand and Communications, for comment. Mabena replied: "We have reviewed the tape

## Managing directors don't, of course, deal with customer complaints

public knowledge, he said it would. Varejes also pointed out that his complaint had been directed at the scale of the charge for an extra 0.6 gigs – he had not asked MTN to examine the record of what sites had been accessed. Said Varejes: "The fact that you state that MTN had to look into what sites were browsed in order to access usage is fallacious... it is only necessary to

of the conversation with the customer following his complaint and are satisfied that there was no attempt to bully or threaten the customer because of the nature of the sites visited. The customer demanded a reduction, accused us of threatening him and in turn threatened to take the matter to the media. The customer was advised, politely, that it was his right to take the matter public if he wished, but that he may not want the nature of some of the sites visited to become public knowledge. There was no actual direct reference made to porn, although that is where it pointed."

On the question of why MTN felt the need to access the sites, when all it needed to do was present the customer with a list of sites, together with dates and times, Mabena replied: "This is a necessary process in investigating data billing queries. Frequently clients dispute the mathematics or rationale behind the billing calculation, and the only way to back up MTN's finding is by analysing the URLs." This completely sidesteps the fact that Varejes was not disputing the usage, only MTN's application of a very different scale of pricing when charging for excess use.

IT lawyer Lance Michalson told *noseweek* that MTN examining sites a customer is looking at could amount to an illegal "interception", but added that the customer might have consented to this in his contact. Unfortu-

## We know what you were doing, but we can't tell you

**I**F MTN ISN'T THREATENING to expose its customers for having displayed an interest in matters of the flesh, it's refusing to tell them what they've allegedly downloaded. Matthew Benas's monthly MTN cell account is usually in the order of R1000. But a few months ago, on trying to make a call, he received a message to say he'd reached his credit limit. As his limit is R3500, he was more than surprised.

When Benas queried the matter he was told that he'd downloaded R1800 worth of data – and the records, MTN claimed, showed that he'd done this in a matter of minutes. Benas wasn't convinced: firstly, he seldom uses his phone for the internet;

secondly, on that particular day he was at home, where he has Wi-Fi, and wouldn't have used his phone to access the internet; and, thirdly, Benas, who works in IT, believes that it's simply not possible to download that much data so quickly on local broadband speeds.

So he asked MTN what he was supposed to have downloaded. Sorry, we can't tell you, said MTN, because that would be breaching privacy. But I'm the one who's asking, cried Benas. Too bad for you, said MTN, it's still private.

Benas has been trying to get to the bottom of this for four months, but he's got absolutely nowhere.

nately Varejes can't find his contract, so he doesn't know if he did.

There you have it: another reason to give up watching internet porn – and, maybe, MTN as well.

*Noseweek* asked MTN for access to the recording of the conversation between Varejes and their representative. Sure, they said, but first we must get Varejes' permission – and asked him to sign a waiver and indemnity. But when Varejes saw what MTN was demanding he wouldn't sign: that would have entailed his agreeing that, once *noseweek* had heard the recording, he wouldn't be able to take action against the cell company. Devious to the last.

■ Is the blackmail threat an isolated case? We think not. Reader Bob Buckley – who got into a spat with Vodacom, aggregator Mira Networks, and content provider Vira Movil about horoscopes that he didn't order – sent an email to Mira, which he copied to the industry body WASPA, reading: "Incidentally you seem to think it necessary to repeatedly imply that I knowingly subscribed to receive 'adult content', which I didn't. Maybe you are planning to refund me for that as well – R60, I believe. Other than that I cannot see the relevance – unless, of course, the idea is to try and embarrass me so that I'll drop the case. It's probably a tactic that you people use quite often. Rest assured, it won't work with me." ■

## Discontent providers

**T**HERE'S JUST NO ENDT to the complaints reaching *noseweek* regarding unsolicited cellphone material. The latest comes from Arthur Clarke, who writes on behalf of Mrs E Williams, a "committed Christian and 65-year-old pensioner" who has been receiving "licentious and suggestive photos" on her cell. Despite sending SMSs to the "stop" number provided, Mrs Williams keeps receiving the material – and each time R10 is deducted from her account.

Clarke's letter neatly captures some of the frustration and confusion that is being caused by unregulated behaviour on the part of cell content providers. He writes: "What really horrifies is the thought that thousands of South Africans (perhaps including schoolchildren) are receiving these unwanted SMSs and photos. If a supplier sends the unsolicited pictures to 10,000 people, and each customer is charged R10, then somebody (presumably including Vodacom) is making a lot of money. Doesn't privacy matter any more? Who is the ombudsman in this situation? What controls are in place, and what is the role of the service provider in stopping unethical behaviour?"

The service provider in this case is

Vodacom and, as is the norm, it immediately washed its hands of the matter, telling Mrs Williams to sort out the matter with the mobile aggregator, Opera Interactive of Parktown North, Johannesburg.

Opera Interactive operations manager Ian Flanagan swiftly passed the ball down the line, telling *noseweek*: "We've had a look at Mrs Williams' number and can see some traffic on one of our client's services. I've spoken directly to the client in question and they are keen to discuss and explain with you directly."

Keen to discuss it the "client", or content provider, certainly was. Jack Cresswell of UK-based AMV called *noseweek* and also sent a lengthy explanatory email. The gist of his response was as follows: Someone used Mrs Williams' cellphone to browse web sites; that person saw an advert for AMV's services, clicked on it, and ordered a free video; AMV sent the video and followed this up with promotional material; someone responded to the promotional material by ordering content; a day later AMV received a stop message which was honoured; however on subsequent occasions more content was ordered and sent. So, said Cresswell, there were "four proactive attempts over a three-month period from someone with access to the handset".

On the general issue of unsolicited content, Cresswell said: "As a responsible commentator on these issues, I would ask you not to tar all providers with the same brush. The consumer is not always right in these instances." Cresswell agreed that "unscrupulous providers, often one-man bands, exploit the market and break the code of conduct, specifically in relation to sending spam to unsuspecting users, who then get embroiled in services which they do not request. Anyone who opens such spam SMSs, and clicks on a link, can be subscribed to services without understanding the terms. Unfortunately this type of trick catches out a lot of elderly users and children in particular."

Mrs Williams remains adamant that she did not order any content and that no-one else has access to her cellphone. ■



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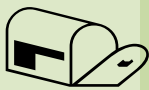
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# The liquidator and the taxman

**T**HE LIQUIDATION INDUSTRY, as everyone knows, is one big racket: creditors get very little and the liquidator lines his pockets – and those of his favourite attorneys, auctioneers and other agents. What isn't well-known is that the biggest loser in the whole messy business is usually the revenue service.

The taxman, you see, is often the insolvent company's biggest creditor; but, unlike the banks, which have dedicated insolvency departments to ensure that they escape relatively unscathed, SARS is woefully inept at looking after its interests. Which is surprising, because SARS is so bloody efficient when it comes to collecting our taxes. (One liquidation specialist estimates that SARS loses billions each year through liquidation fraud.) It's also worrying, because we taxpayers are bearing the loss.

There are signs, fortunately, that things are quietly beginning to change.

Nose113 told how Robert Mugabe's "billionaire fag king" – tobacco baron, arms dealer, and all-round shady character John Bredenkamp – had his Masters International Tobacco Manufacturing (Pty) Ltd put into voluntary liquidation on 9 October 2008.



Bredenkamp then ensured that the creditors – many of them companies linked to Bredenkamp or his mates – nominated as provisional liquidator the notorious, and extremely well-connected Enver Motala. The Master of the Pretoria High Court readily agreed (Motala is not only well-connected in the ANC, but he's also popular with the unions, who frequently play a role in appointing liquidators).

Motala immediately sought permission from the Master to start selling (privately, rather than by public auction) assets of the company (tobacco and cigarette-making machines), that had been valued by Motala's auctioneer of choice, Park Village Auctions. Which was, of course, what the whole voluntary liquidation was about – Bredenkamp wanted to get the assets out of the company before SARS, the largest creditor with a claim of at least R60m, got in there.

SARS, however, got wind of Motala's request and acted with some celerity – the revenue service asked Motala for an undertaking not to sell the assets and, when he failed to respond, it applied to the high court for an order to liquidate the company (a court-ordered liquidation has different consequences to a voluntary liquidation, for example concerning the powers of the liquidator). It also applied to have Motala removed from his position as provisional liquidator. The reasoning was that the whole thing was clearly a sham, with Bredenkamp running the show, and Motala colluding.

The court agreed with SARS, and on 23 December 2008 it gave Motala the boot and ordered that the company be liquidated. A few weeks later, Shirishkumar Jivan Kalianjee and Yusuf Ebrahim were appointed joint provisional liquidators.

But Bredenkamp and Motala weren't about to give up. At the first meeting of creditors, held on 25 March 2009, Motala managed to get himself appointed as a final liquidator, along with Kalianjee:

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creditors' votes are determined by both number and value, and though SARS voted against Motala, the other creditors all voted for him. *Noseweek's* liquidation expert thinks that the Master should have turned down Motala's appointment (as the court had already found him unfit to act as provisional liquidator) – but that wasn't what happened: perhaps the Master's Office is horribly corrupt, or maybe Motala simply has serious influence there, or possibly because Motala has a R1m defamation case pending against the Chief Master.

So, once again, Motala was running the show, and, it seems, decided it was time to get some money in – for himself that is. He submitted to the Master what is known as an “intromission account” – basically a summary of the administration for the period when Motala was provisional liquidator, reflecting both the money collected from debtors, as well as his own fees and expenses.

However, once again, SARS acted: on 5 February 2010 it filed a lengthy objection, in which it claims that Motala's fees should be incorporated in the final distribution and liquidation account for the company, and that no fees should be allowed at this stage. In the alternative, SARS raises a number of objections.

Firstly, SARS claims that Motala's professional fee is outrageous – some R238,000 (10% of the amount collected from debtors, roughly R2.3m). SARS concedes that the law provides for a 10% fee, but this is subject to it being reasonable. Which isn't the case at all, says SARS, because Motala has collected exactly nine payments (from whom, Motala doesn't even say), something that would've required no more than a few hours' work. And were Motala to charge some R750 per hour, his fee would be very far short of R238,000.

Furthermore, asks SARS, why did Motala not collect much more? – the recoverable debts were stated at R4,791,782, and as liquidator he should explain what steps were taken to recover these debts, and why so much was written off.

SARS also takes issue with the fact that Motala has unilaterally, illegally and without any authority, paid in full certain concurrent creditors – in other words, creditors whose debts were incurred prior to liquidation. Creditors like Access Freight, who were paid R339,275; and Envirotech Pest Management, who received R9,091.

It's not clear why a liquidator would so blatantly break the law to pay some

creditors in full. One suggestion put to *noseweek* is that it's a form of electioneering – the liquidator is trying to curry favour with companies that may well be creditors in future insolvencies, and which may well nominate as liquidator someone who has treated them well. Then there's the issue of legal expenses incurred by Motala. In the first place, no liquidator is entitled to incur legal expenses without the express approval of the Master, or the creditors; and in the second place, a large portion of the fees relate to Motala's battle with SARS to stay on as provisional liquidator. SARS points out that these claims should have been for Motala's own account: as it stands, Motala has used SARS's money to do battle with SARS.

In the space of a few months, Motala used three law firms, including his personal favourite, Knowles Hussain Lindsay. The amounts are not insignificant: A firm called David Botha issued invoices for R93,594; attorneys Moki van Huyssteen charged R205,961; and Steph du Toit SC charged some R20,000 for settling a two-page letter dealing with Motala's fight with SARS. These legal bills haven't even been taxed. As *noseweek's* expert asks: did any of these lawyers bother to ask Motala for proof of his authority to incur legal expenses on behalf of the insolvent estate?

SARS has plenty of questions. Why, for example, did Motala pay salaries to certain people, including one PT Matlakala, who received R9,059 for admin services, one S Pillay who received R15,000 for admin services, and one Ismail Chapiktuka who was paid R4,000 for collecting and packing files? SARS wants to know why Motala stayed on in the premises of Masters International Tobacco and continued to pay rent of R75,354 per month (shouldn't he have tried to renegotiate the lease?). Why did he pay R39,387 for security services? Why did he pay Park Village Auctions some R81,327 at a time when his appointment as provisional liquidator had been terminated by the court? And lastly, why did Motala loan R536,735 to International Cigarette Manufacturers, apparently “to get stock released for sale to a Mozambique debtor”? Is this money to be refunded and, if so, when?

Motala has not yet responded to SARS's objection, so it will be interesting to see what happens next.

Will SARS have the stomach to bring another high court application, this time to have Motala removed as final liquidator? **W**

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# HONEY, I SHRUNK THE SHARES

Nedbank and delinquent investor ramped up huge losses



**I**N A BETTER WORLD the head of Nedbank Capital, Brian Kennedy, would, by now, be in jail.

Why? Three years ago he connived at what amounts to a scheme of reckless lending, which would earn Nedbank close on R150m in fees and interest, but which he knew with near certainty would end up costing an ignorant surety R1bn or more – and, along the way, defraud some investors of another billion or so.

Here, in fairness, it is necessary to interject that the registrar of banks, Errol Kruger, has told the international financial news service, Bloomberg, that he did not think Nedbank did “anything wrong” in accumulating an 89% interest in property developer Acc-Ross in 2008. Which, we reckon is a fair indication of where, at the end of the day, the real problem lies.

The registrar made his cheerful statement only days after *Business Times* broke the news that Nedbank was being sued for R1.3bn for its role in the single stock futures debacle around Pinnacle Point, the company that acquired Acc-Ross in 2008. There the “debacle” is still clouded in obfuscatory broker-speak. Simply put, Nedbank, completely reckless of consequences, lent close on R1bn to a down-and-out delinquent property investor, one Jacobus Frederick de Beer – because they knew that, due to poor controls and a flawed system, Absa (“Big Red” to Mr Kennedy and present Nedbank CEO Mike Brown) would end up paying the debt.

Now, clearly, to pull off a crime like that requires a disguise, some sleight

of hand and, preferably, the cover of darkness. All were seemingly provided by Safex. (Acronym for the SA Futures Exchange, South Africa’s newest licensed casino for high rollers.) To play the single stock futures market requires a poker face, a lot of creative mathematics – and very little common sense. It’s a game that uses terms like “hedge” (not the bit of greenery enclosing your garden), and “gearing” (nothing to do with motor cars).

When you or I want to borrow money, our bankers are quick to tell us, in solemn tones, that they’re not into gambling: they demand proof of monthly earnings, and give us a bond for a loan amount well below our house’s market value. But when it comes to playing for billions on the single stock futures market, the rules somehow change. Then those same bankers are apparently all for a high-stakes gamble – bummer the non-existent income stream and pitiful present market value! Take the example of Mr De Beer’s company Acc-Ross Holdings.

Nedbank bought hundreds of millions of Acc-Ross’s near-worthless shares on the stockmarket – most of them from Mr De Beer’s various BVI front companies – at inflated prices, ostensibly as security to “hedge” for the day when De Beer would arrive to call up his single stock futures and demand delivery of his shares.

De Beer meanwhile used some of the

Nedbank money to pay the required 10% deposit to buy single stock futures from Nedbank (effectively these are contracts in which he undertakes to buy back the same Acc-Ross shares (a “single stock”), at some fixed (future) date, at roughly the same price at which Nedbank bought them.

In effect, he will repay the money advanced by the bank, against the return of his security – his shares. The single stock future is a sort of promissory note which is tradeable.

But what if, on that future date, the single stock futures are not honoured? Surely then it’s of great concern to the bank what the real value of those shares are? Apparently not. Because the rules of Safex say that, if the buyer defaults, the broker who set up the deal is liable. And if he can’t pay, there’s a wonderful thing called a “clearing house” – another bank – that will have to pay. In this case, Absa.

Nedbank set the ball rolling in December 2006 by buying a couple of million Acc-Ross shares from Jacobus de Beer’s offshore company, Jansk

International (registered in the British Virgin Islands), for R250m. This gave De Beer seed capital with which to buy (through a clutch of shell companies, all also BVI registered) his first bundle – and many subsequent bundles – of single stock futures from Nedbank (or any of its Syfrets nominees, to help disguise the scheme).

Over a two-year period, Nedbank bought about R1bn-worth of Acc-Ross shares at an average price of 75 cents per share, although the company had a net asset value of barely 10 cents per share – so they clearly could not have cared less about the security offered by the company.

Did it have an income? No, Acc-Ross was making losses, year after year.

Was De Beer at least using the R450m of Nedbank's money he netted (after paying the deposit on those single stock futures), to develop and market Acc-Ross's assets? No. As far as *noseweek* has been able to establish, it all disappeared off-shore, and is likely buried on some Caribbean island, at the place marked "X".

To anyone bothering to look, it was pretty obvious there was piracy afoot.

We cannot do better than quote from a research report on Acc-Ross, compiled in July 2007 by our much-admired colleague Deon Basson, who died last

year: Basson was sceptical of all the references to "new brooms sweeping clean", "fundamental changes" and "a steady platform to start reflecting profits", that were appearing in the business press about Acc-Ross at the time. They took too little account of the company's history, he said.

De Beer's personal history, for starters. He was the sole authorised representative of Jansk International, in terms of a general power of attorney issued by BMH Management SA, of 1 Wickhams Cay, Road Town, Tortola, in the British Virgin Islands. Jansk was the subject of an investigation by the Financial Services Board, following which it rushed to convert its South African investors' investments into preference shares in a SA-registered company.

De Beer had himself also been the subject of a notice published by the minister of Trade and Industry, ordering him to desist from further indulging in a "harmful business practice". The directive related to an unlisted company called Gauteng Corporate Services.

As for Acc-Ross, De Beer's subsequently listed company, Basson noted: "The initial funding arrangements of the group left it with permanent damage ... [and] too-high gearing. Shares

had often been issued 'in lieu' [of a cash payment] for goodwill [rather than any real assets] or blue-sky promises, reminiscent of growth in the money supply of a banana republic."

Basson very quickly established that the accounts and records of the company were in a mess. Some examples: "No share register or share transfer register of Acc-Ross Holdings prior to the company's listing [on the AltX] was available to check the movements in shareholdings during the period before listing.

"The goodwill shown in the balance sheet, most of it related to [a previously acquired company] Gardener-Ross, is probably not justified," he said. That was understating it. Gardener-Ross had been insolvent and its auditors were not prepared to confirm it as a going concern for the two years prior to it being taken over by Acc-Ross. Its debts exceeded its real assets by R90.3m. Jacobus de Beer controlled Gardener-Ross through Jansk, his BVI company (with unidentified shareholders; ho-ho-ho). He had sorted out the insolvency problem by valuing Gardener-Ross's goodwill at R252m, and then swapping its shares for 260 million Acc-Ross shares. (Shares which Nedbank would not long thereafter happily buy off Jansk of the BVI for a couple of hundred million rands.)

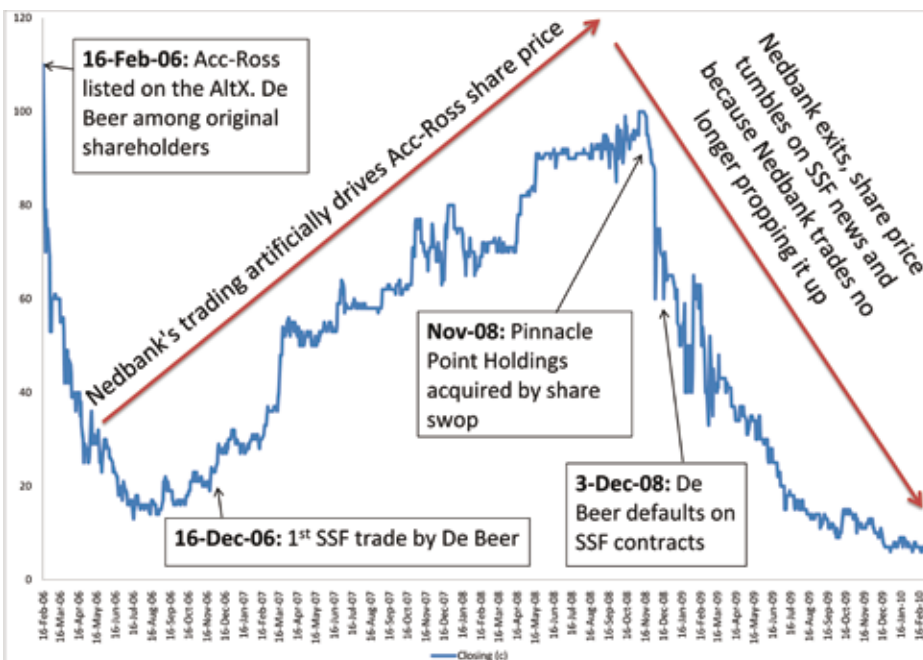
The "Acc" half of Acc-Ross had been a company called Accretio – that De Beer bought for R45,000. To spice things up, Acc-Ross also bought (or issued shares for) a few odds and sods from our other old friend, Zunaid Moti's Abalengani Group. One of these, Lizard Point, was reflected in Acc-Ross's books at R12m, but Acc-Ross CEO Wilfred Robinson (ex Absa) cheerfully assured the press it had been "independently valued at R800m". Basson thought it might have no shareholder value at all.

And that about sums up the package.

How did Acc-Ross ever get a listing? That can only be explained by Kevin de Villiers, who, for older readers, will bring back the sadness that once was Allied Bank, but who is today the brains behind Arcay Client Support – who facilitated the Acc-Ross listing.

One thing puzzled Basson: the huge premium at which Acc-Ross shares were trading on the stockmarket in mid 2007. The share price was nearly five times its net asset value – a huge premium compared to other, more successful companies in a similar market. "Why does a relatively new and small

## How Nedbank drove – and then dropped – the Acc-Ross/Pinnacle Group share price



company deserve such a huge premium?" he asked – and speculated that it might be a reflection of our "overheated" property market.

He did not know that Nedbank, as the single dominant buyer throughout a two-year period, and De Beer as the major seller, were deliberately ramping the market in Acc-Ross shares. (See graph.) This not only generated more cash for De Beer – it would also cost the shareholders of Pinnacle Point over R1bn in damages when they reversed their company into Acc-Ross, in December 2008, in order to get the benefits of a listing. That covers only the fraudu-



lently inflated price of Acc-Ross shares they received in exchange for their assets; it does not take account of the long-term reputational damage they will have suffered.

Maybe now is the time to remind you that registrar of banks Errol Kruger doesn't think Nedbank did "anything wrong" in accumulating an 89% interest in Acc-Ross in 2008. The matter, he has said, is a "storm in a teacup".

There is a last, ugly twist to this unfortunate tale: apart from the shares it dumped on Absa when De Beer defaulted, Nedbank held another 25-odd million Acc-Ross shares on its own account. De Beer was officially in default on 3 December 2008, but this was only disclosed to the public on 1 February, when *Business Times* broke the story. Only then did the share price crash. It now emerges that Nedbank made use of the intervening weeks to quietly dispose of its remaining shares at the still inflated price – an ugly bit of insider trading if ever there was one. ■

## Mr Moti and the mystery of the Cradock Chinese connection

**I**N NOSE124 WE OFFERED a R5 reward to the first person willing and able to tell us why Zunaid Moti's bankrupt Sandton property company, 85 Grayston Drive Developments, has its registered office in the near-deserted Eastern Cape town of Cradock. Having handed over R5 in a plain brown envelope, we are now able to tell you that the company's registered address at 29 Church Street, Cradock, is also the registered address of many other companies in Moti's Abalengani property group, as well as being the home of well-known local accountants Gerber, Botha and Gowar.

Quite apart from the fact that a Sandton corporation speculating in property and fast cars with R1bn borrowed from Investec clearly needs the sort of accounting services that only a small country firm can provide, Mr Gowar has for many, many years au-

ditated accounts for another, equally hard-arsed member of the Moti clan – Zunaid's uncle Abdool. While Abdool is better known in these parts as the owner of the First Stop Hyper in the neighbouring small town of Middelburg, it transpires he is also Zunaid's partner and co-director in many of the more notorious Abalengani companies, all now heavily in hock to Investec and several other banks. Which might explain why, though the sign above the door still declares it to be the First Stop Hyper, and Abdool is still behind his desk in the manager's office, when you phone, the switchboard announces that you've reached the Gao Supermarket; yes, under Chinese ownership since October. But you'll still get put through to Mr Moti, who announces that he's the "buyer". No, he says, you can't speak to Mr Gao – he only speaks Chinese. "Speak to me."



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# The suspect IT tender mystery is unresolved

Attorney-general's inquiry returns a soft report

**T**HE POLICE'S COMMERCIAL BRANCH is in possession of an explosive affidavit that claims a payoff was made to a top government official for helping to steer the award of a R153m government IT tender to a tiny, previously unheard of BEE company, Valor IT.

As *noseweek* has previously reported (*noses* 114, 115 & 117), Valor IT's tender price was more than double the R60m tender of listed Faritec, a long-established IT company with impeccable BEE credentials.

The kickback claim is made in one of two affidavits sworn by Abe Mbulawa, former chief information officer of the City of Cape Town and now chief executive of ICT consultancy and management company Mantra Consulting. Mantra drafted Valor's winning tender bid and is now suing Valor IT for R10.5m for alleged breach of an agreement that would have seen Mbulawa installed on a project consultant's fee of R180,000 per month to ensure the two-year contract's smooth running. Copies of the two affidavits have been handed to Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies and his director-general Tsediso Matona by Democratic Alliance MP Andricus van der Westhuizen.

Mbulawa's affidavit, made on 16 September last year, at the Pretoria office of the SAPS Commercial Branch, describes how, in October 2008, two months before Valor IT was quietly awarded the Enterprise Content Management tender by Cipro (the Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office), Valor's chief executive Josias Molele called Mbulawa to a

meeting at Pretoria's Brooklyn Mall.

Present at this meeting, says Mbulawa, was "one lady from [technology multinational] Tibco and another gentleman". This gentleman was introduced to him as Julius Segole, chief information officer of the National Department of Social Development, and

external evaluator," reads Mbulawa's affidavit.

"Molele asked me to tell Twum-Darko to put Segole on the panel. Also, he said I must tell Twum-Darko to take into cognisance Segole's current commitments, when he considered the starting date of the tender evaluation."

Mbulawa says he passed this information to Twum-Darko the following day. He adds: "It is my understanding that Segole was put on the tender evaluation panel."

The affidavit continues: "During 10-14 November 2008 at a trip where I invited Valor IT to a presentation in Kampala at the headquarters of the Uganda police force, Molele told me that he had paid Julius Segole, and one other, for a job well done. I asked him which job, and he said 'the tender evaluation'."

Asked to comment Julius Segole told *noseweek*: "I am horrified by the allegations, and take them very seriously. I would like to categorically state that I have never received any payment from Mr Molele, or anyone, for my part in the evaluation of the tender. Neither have I ever discussed such a payment with Mr Molele in lieu of awarding of the tender to Valor IT."

"The evaluation was carried out by two independent evaluation teams of about five people in each team, each of whom brought various expertise to the evaluation team."

"In light of information supplied by Mr Molele, I find it questionable that such a statement was allegedly made during the week of 10-14 November 2008, when the tender evaluation had not been concluded. The tender evaluation was planned for completion on 13 November 2008. Needless to say, the



chair of the Government Information Technology Officers' Council. Segole was "an expert on enterprise content management, which was the main thrust of the tender."

Mbulawa says Molele asked him to tell Segole his history and relationship with Cipro's chief information officer, Michael Twum-Darko, which he did.

"Molele said he wanted Segole to sit on the tender evaluation panel for Cipro bid 043/2008 [the ECM tender] as an



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process was completed much later than the planned date.

"I have established a reputation in government, not only as a knowledgeable CIO on ICT, but also as a man of integrity who applies fairness and transparency in my responsibilities. In my capacity as the chairperson of the Government Information Technology Officers Council (GITOC) I cannot afford to tarnish my image by engaging in corrupt practices."

Valor IT's Josias Molele was also adamant that Mbulawa's allegations are unfounded: "Mbulawa is talking rubbish, utter nonsense indeed. He is really now out of his mind. This very same guy alleged that we had used his intellectual property to win [the ECM tender]. When we were able to come before the courts last December he retracted that.

"He has also claimed that we owed him money. He has put a serious veil on us with these allegations. Now he's starting another allegation [the pay-off]. And that's fine. We shall deal with it when we are given the opportunity. There's nothing for me to hide."

In a written reply in parliament, trade minister Rob Davies has stated that three external people served on Cipro's bid evaluation panel to evaluate and award the ECM tender. They were Julius Segole, Coltrane Nyathi and Shadrack Katuu. Nyathi, an ECM security expert, was suggested for the task by Zwaleke Sithole, head of Communication Security at the National Intelligence Agency. The minister was replying last November to questions by Democratic Alliance MP Andricus van der Westhuizen, who sits on the portfolio committee for trade and industry. Davies stated that Julius Segole was requested to serve on the evaluation panel by Cipro's chief information officer Michael Twum-Darko.

Cipro's closed ECM tender, to upgrade its information technology system, was quietly awarded to Valor IT in December 2008. There was no public announcement by Cipro chief executive Keith Sendwe before *noseweek* broke the story four months later, in *nose114*.

Despite our revelations then, and in *noses115&117*, Sendwe and his chief information officer, Michael Twum-Darko, insisted there was nothing untoward about the ECM tender award. The auditor-general's office was wheeled in and last October Cipro announced that the A-G's forensic investigation had found no irregularities and that the ap-

proved supply chain process had been followed.

But then the bombshell of Abe Mbulawa's affidavits was presented to Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies, forcing a hasty government rethink.

As *noseweek* went to press the Auditor-General's revised report (*see box*) was due to be presented to parliament. So was a forensic audit, commissioned by Trade Minister Davies and conducted by Specialised Services Group, a firm of private investigators headed by Warren Goldblatt.

So what else in Abe Mbulawa's affidavits might begin to reveal the mechanics of a gigantic cover-up? His relationship with Cipro's Michael Twum-Darko and Valor IT, for one.

In the 1960s, as a child, Abe Mbulawa, now 48, fled South Africa and apartheid for Botswana. In 1988 he started the Computer Academy of Botswana. A lecturer at his academy was Ghanaian-born Michael Twum-Darko.

In 1996 Mbulawa was appointed chief information officer of the City of Cape Town, where he managed 24 business divisions with an IT budget of more than R500m. As head of his project management division he brought in – his old friend Michael Twum-Darko.

Another member of Twum-Darko's division at the City of Cape Town was Derrick Williams, younger brother of Cipro's chief executive, Keith Sendwe.

By 2002 Mbulawa had left the City of Cape Town, and three years later set up his consulting and strategy business, Mantra Consulting. In his first affidavit to the police, made on 3 September last year, Mbulawa says: "During 2007 I was approached by Sendwe with a request to assist him to find a CIO (chief information officer) for Cipro, who would be capable of helping to transform the organisation. I recommended Twum-Darko for the position.

"Once Twum-Darko was appointed CIO at Cipro, and with the knowledge of Sendwe, I fulfilled a coaching role towards Twum-Darko. [...] I was aware that Cipro was planning on issuing a tender on electronic content management (ECM) and I indicated to Twum-Darko that I was interested in bidding for the tender.

"Twum-Darko advised me to partner with Valor. I inquired as to his relations with Valor. He indicated that he knew them through his friend Ntando Khubeka, who was a business partner of [Twum-Darko's] Ghanaian friend Komlaayive Akpagana.

# Either a whitewash or just incompetent

**A**N INVESTIGATION BY the Auditor-General has found evidence to support Abe Mbulawa's allegation (made in an affidavit to the police's Commercial Branch – see main story) that Cipro's internal, and supposedly secret, business case for its "enterprise content management" (ECM) tender, showing the crucial estimated vendor cost of R140,669,844, had been made available to one of the bidders, Valor IT, before tenders closed.

With this insider information Valor was able to put in its almost identical cost proposal figure of R138,159,754. It won the tender.

Costs tendered by the four other bidders were way out – R84.5m, R51.7m, R156.8m and R181.4m.

Although insiders knew by December 2008 that Valor had won the award, with a final price of R153m, there was no public announcement before *noseweek* broke the story last April in *nose114*.

Prompted by staff complaints, and *noseweek's* reports, the Auditor-General finally launched an investigation. A highlight of his lily-livered report is the finding that "Some of the proposed solutions submitted by the successful bidder [Valor IT] compared almost exactly to the wording of the [supposedly secret] business case of Cipro".

According to the A-G's report, Cipro told him that extracts from the business case were presented to all those at the information session, and were "provided to interested parties on request" prior to the close of tenders. He insisted that no budget or costing information

was provided to anyone.

The A-G does, however, note that this is contradicted by the representatives of two of the unsuccessful bidders, who confirmed in writing that no business case information was provided during the information session.

Other "deficiencies" noted by the Auditor-General:

- No business case had been approved for this tender by the Department of Public Service and Administration, after consultation with the Government Information Technology Officers Council (GITO), as is required by the regulation. [In any event, see main story about the allegedly devious role of GITO's chairman, Julius Segole.]

- Scoring by the two bid evaluation teams was inconsistent, with variances of up to 66.66% in scoring for functionality, where scores were expected to vary very little;

- Inaccuracies in the scoring sheets completed by the State Information Technology Authority's (Sita) bid evaluation committee were noted. Sheets were unsigned and it was not possible to identify scores as being combined scores or scores of individual members of the bid evaluation committee. The Auditor-General was therefore unable to confirm the correctness, fairness and accuracies of the scores calculated to decide on the recommendation of service providers. Sita conceded that "the signed score sheets could not be located in the tender master file".

- The financial position or sustainability of the service providers was not taken into account during the evalua-

tion. The successful bidder [Valor IT] registered as a close corporation on 22 June 2005 and therefore was in existence for just three months when the entity tendered for the supply of ECM solutions.

The Auditor-General says that Cipro should now:

- Assess the risk of the supplier [Valor IT] not being financially sustainable;

- Assess the significance of non-compliance with procurement processes in awarding the contract;

- Determine if the successful bidder received information not available to other bidders;

- Based on the outcome, the contract with Valor IT should be "reconsidered", and those responsible should be held accountable.

Although the Auditor-General states that "the findings in this report should be addressed decisively by Cipro, with the support of the director-general of the Department of Trade and Industry and Sita", Cipro insiders declare the report to be "pathetic". Says one: "This is either a whitewash or the most incompetent report I've seen."

A source close to Trade and Industry director-general Tsedisio Matona, says he is "bitterly disappointed", complaining that the A-G has not given him enough to be able to act decisively. Maybe the A-G hasn't, but then a lot of other people have. Unless he, in turn, is relying on the A-G's "soft" report as a licence to also go soft on corruption, as appears to be the fashion in government circles these days.

"I entered into an agreement with Valor regarding the Cipro ECM tender, based on the recommendation of Twum-Darko."

Mbulawa's affidavit goes on to recount how Valor's first draft of its tender proposal was of "such poor quality, that I enquired from Twum-Darko why he had recommended me to partner with this company. Twum-Darko then provided me with material relevant to this tender to enable me to assist Valor to enhance the proposal to Cipro. Such material included, but was not limited to, the Cipro business case.

"In view of the above, I find the comments in the media by Twum-Darko

that he knows neither myself nor my company ludicrous, to say the least."

As for SSG's financial audit, some former Cipro staff who have met with SSG investigators wonder whether the sleuths are digging deep enough – and speculate that government has brought them in not to dig out the dirt at Cipro, but to paper over the cracks.

Critics point out that, after months on the job, SSG only made contact with Cipro chief operations officer Melanie Bernard-Fryer, a key player in the affair, on 24 February. To chief executive Keith Sendwe's shame, Bernard-Fryer's life at Cipro has been made hell since she made the first allegations of tender

irregularities over the Valor IT award.

Both Melanie Bernard-Fryer and Cipro's beleaguered chief executive Keith Sendwe were away from their desks last month, on sick leave. And Michael Twum-Darko was placed on "special leave" for four months.

- Despite all this, Valor IT continues to prosper from new work at Cipro. Valor holds a 30% stake in Scanco Digital Services, which was sub-contracted by Business Connexion Group to do 2.5m scans at Cipro, in a deal worth R1.2m. Scanco has gone on to win, by itself, a further R900,000 Cipro tender to process 20,000 patents, which work is still in progress. ■

**BEFORE**



Sonstraal dam before (above) and after (facing page) Cape Nature carried out its improvement programme

**I**T MAY HAVE BEEN AN uneasy truce, but it did hold for close on five years. So it is with some regret that *noseweek* hereby announces the imminent resumption of hostilities in the dreadful Durbanville Duck War. In fact, there's a good chance of wholesale slaughter as early as this month.

In Durbanville there is a dam called Sonstraal, in the vicinity of which the homes are on the upmarket side, and where the genteel residents are fond of picnics and feeding the ducks. But what these good people don't like is fishing at the dam, and they did their best to get it stopped.

The fishermen, you see, tended to leave a big mess – not just rotting fish, but also hooks, lines and sinkers. They also enjoyed making a racket, since fishing has less to do with catching fish than with getting away from the wife for a few *dops* with your mates. By all accounts, the guys who fished Sonstraal were staunch members of the Klippies and Coke brigade, and lawless to boot – they liked driving their bakkies where they shouldn't, and ignored the regulations at the dam. The council wasn't too worried about this, and claimed it didn't have the money to clean up the regular mess either.

All of which was irritating, but not enough to justify a ban on fishing. What was enough was avian botulism. A ban on fishing at Sonstraal Dam was imposed in March 2005, after a group known as the Friends of Sonstraal Dam were able to show a direct link between the activities of the fishermen and the horrible disease that was killing ducks.

Apparently, the barbel and carp being caught would be thrown straight back into the dam; some would die from their injuries and be washed up onto the mudflats where they provided the protein substrate that activates the avian botulism; flies attracted to the rotting fish would lay eggs and when the maggots hatched they would be eaten by the ducks – which would die in pain.

The fishing ban didn't go down well, not with the fishermen and not with certain City officials – like Sybrand Burger, the City of Cape Town's Head of Parks for the Tygerberg region, who allegedly told Wendy Herbig of Friends of Sonstraal Dam: "I'm going to kill every fucking duck until such time as we get our fishing back." This decidedly uncivil servant resigned shortly thereafter, but it's said that his successor,

# With conservation officials like these, who needs vandals?

In its battle to reclaim Sonstraal dam for the fishing fraternity, Cape Nature has resorted to chemical warfare and scorched earth tactics – against a few dozen invading ducks

Altus de Wet, expressed similar sentiments, and has been working on getting fishing back ever since. Of late he's been assisted in this by the local DA ward councillor, Johan van der Merwe.

The first step was to get rid of the ducks. Altus de Wet roped in Cape Nature, who provided the justification: mallards are aliens that will cross breed with the indigenous yellow-billed ducks, so to maintain local biodiversity the mallards would have to be exterminated. (Cape Nature seemed to overlook the fact that yellow-billed ducks are never seen at the dam.)

The first onslaught, attempted in June 2005, was a flop, because Wendy Herbig and a few other stalwarts shooed the ducks away just in time. But in September 2005 De Wet came better

prepared, arriving at 6.30am with a veritable army of 15 Cape Nature officials, a handful of SPCA officials, five SANP members, and around five other law enforcement officials – all to deal with some 30 birds and the four women, one man, and two children who had come down to the dam to object. It wasn't a friendly meeting, as you can imagine, and one official even thought the only way to deal with an 11-year old taking photos was to threaten the child with arrest.

The killing was anything but humane – instead of sedating the birds as promised, the Cape Nature people threw poisoned bread into the water, killing every bird, alien or local. Apparently Cape Nature employee Dalton Gibbs took great delight in throw-



ing dead and dying birds into a crate, boasting loudly about his experience in killing birds, and having a good laugh at the distress his actions were causing onlookers. The operation was so badly botched that the head of Cape Nature, Kas Hamman, eventually apologised for the manner in which the slaughter took place.

Now if De Wet and Co thought that was that, they were sadly mistaken – within no time, plenty of ducks arrived to fill the little niche so brutally emptied at Sonstraal Dam. Yes, folks – we now have nature officials who apparently know nothing about nature.

Well, next thing, De Wet was scaling up for phase two – Operation Scorched Earth. This involved cutting the surrounding grass so short that it simply stopped growing, and having every other green thing in sight torn from the water or surrounding soils – trees, shrubs, reeds and so on. Then came the propaganda phase: Operation Diss the Ducks – De Wet blamed the mallards for destroying the grass and eroding the dam walls, and again gave grave warning that the mallards would cross-breed with the indigenous yellow-billed species. In a truly weird bit of lunacy he also blamed the ducks for causing the avian botulism that was killing them.

The extent of Herbig's frustration is evident: "Here we go again, back to the dark ages and talk about botulism being caused by bird excrement. [...] There are no indigenous yellow-billed ducks at this dam... [which] are wild birds that do not survive in this artifi-

cial urban environment. [...] Ducks are also not known for their athletic prowess in climbing up and down dam walls – in case no one's noticed, they can fly, and have no need to climb dam walls."

The latest killing spree is planned for this month, and will include both mallards (presumably to be poisoned) and Egyptian geese, which will apparently be shot, as they have this irritating tendency to fly away from danger. As the local paper put it, Cape Nature will be issuing "hunting permits" for the killing of Egyptian geese – which would suggest that anytime soon a bunch of wild-eyed arseholes will be running around Durbanville blasting Egyptian geese (a protected indigenous species) out of the sky.

Yes, folks – we now have nature officials who know nothing about nature

De Wet denied that there was such a plan, claiming that a "public consultation process" is still on-going. Perhaps he's simply forgotten making an official statement to the local rag, in which he claimed that "the killing of ducks and hunting of Egyptian Geese [...] is unavoidable"? De Wet also insists that the pressure to allow fishing at Sonstraal was coming from "neighbours of the dams, and visitors".

He described the allegation that he is deliberately allowing the dam environs to be degraded as "absolute nonsense", claiming that the "grassless dustbowl" that is Sonstraal Dam is cut nine times per year in accordance with City specifications (he didn't explain why it's

necessary to cut sand so often). He also claimed that waterfowl do cause "some degree of erosion", but did seem to accept that the main causes of erosion of the dam walls are "rainfall and wave action". He accepted that no yellow-billed ducks live at the dam, but put this down to their being "out-competed by other waterfowl".

On the issue of avian botulism, De Wet sent *noseweek* some material that he believes justifies his view that it's caused by duck poo. As regards Egyptian geese, he said that the proposal to kill them came from Cape Nature, which would be issuing hunting permits. He then contradicted himself by saying that all the birds would be sedated, and not killed. No poisoning, he said.

*Noseweek* sought comment from the head of Cape Nature, Kas Hamman, but he ducked the questions (sorry). So we don't know how Hamman might justify the hunting of indigenous birds, or what his angle would be on assertions being made that Cape Nature is almost completely reliant on foreign grants.

*Noseweek* would also have liked Hamman's reaction to former DA official Nikki Botha, who had this to say: "Has Cape Nature really got so much spare taxpayers' money that they can waste it on senseless killing sprees? I never hear about them cleaning up river systems or wetlands, or taking developers to court for illegally building on environmentally-sensitive sites. [...] Why are we continually giving these

people millions of rands when the only thing they ever do is kill and destroy?"

Botha, who left the DA in disgust on an animal rights issue, has harsh words for her former party. She points out that in a document titled "In Trust for the Nation", the DA declared that "each living creature has intrinsic value and is a sentient being", and that the DA has signed the Universal Declaration of Animal Welfare.

She goes on to say: "I believe that a lot of the votes that went to the DA during the election could be tied in with their claimed position on animal welfare. This seems to have been nothing but a clever ploy to solicit the vote of the middle-class white." ■

# Steenekamp cleared

**S**HIRLEY STEENEKAMP HAS BEEN vindicated: it would appear that she was not guilty of improprieties, as alleged, during her time at the Insurance Sector Education Training Authority (Inseta). In fact, it would seem that Steenekamp, who lost her job at Inseta last year, may well have been the victim of a disinformation campaign conducted by individuals unhappy with her tendency to question how certain council members were using the organisation to further the ends of the companies they worked for.

Indeed, *noseweek* has reason to suspect that certain members of the Inseta council deliberately withheld information that would have cleared Steenekamp. A preliminary report alleged that Steenekamp had sent emails to some council members, outlining the unsuitability of appointing then acting CEO, Phakama Nkosi, as CEO. Suspiciously, even after the media got hold of that story, the Inseta council did not release the final forensic report – which, it turns out, cleared Steenekamp's name.

Other allegations made against Steenekamp, regarding her role in awarding a tender to a company which employed her son Piers, have also proved to be without foundation. The disciplinary hearings affirmed that Steenekamp had, in fact, declared that her son worked for one of the tendering companies, and offered to recuse herself from evaluating the bids – but the council representative on the panel, Margie Naidoo, urged her not to, “as there was no problem”.

In fact, it now appears that for several years Steenekamp was a lone voice raising questions regarding cases of conflict of interest involving Inseta council members.

One of her allegations concerned council chair Christopher Kemp. In 2004, Kemp apparently instructed Inseta to develop a “pilot project” for the certification, as financial advisors, of 14 managers from Mutual & Federal (Kemp's employers). A consultant, Rina Opperman, was contracted to undertake the project, at a cost of R111,000. One complaint against the project was that the Mutual & Federal managers

were not given training, and simply certified – but the more damning allegation was that the project was created exclusively for managers from Kemp's employer, Mutual & Federal.

During the following year (2005), when Marianne Strydom of the Auditor-General's office was asked to address the council on the issue of conflict of interest, Christopher Kemp, then chair of Inseta's financial committee, reportedly protested – and even threatened to resign.

This apparently reached the ears of some Inseta providers, and at the 2005 Inseta AGM independent provider Leon Liedeman questioned Kemp about his involvement in the “pilot project”, and whether he would agree or not that it showed a conflict of interest, given that he was a director of Mutual & Federal. Kemp there and then simply denied initiating the project and claimed he wasn't even directly involved with it. While many at Inseta were familiar with the facts, apparently only Shirley Steenekamp, in an email to the Inseta council, pointed out Kemp's “economy with the truth”.

At her July 2009 disciplinary hearing Steenekamp again raised the issue of Kemp's denial that he had initiated the “pilot project”. She produced emails and minutes of meetings, which recorded his active role in getting the project going.

Other issues of conflict of interest to which Steenekamp drew attention involved 2008 Inseta council chair Tetiwe Jawuna and council vice-chair Ivan Mzimela.

It appears that Jawuna, a director of Standard Bank, neither recused herself nor declared her interest, during Inseta financial committee meetings in 2007 and 2008, when a proposal was made and then ratified, to invest R25m with her employer – to the exclusion of other banks. It's also alleged that Jawuna promoted training programmes that directly benefited Standard Bank insurance brokers.

Current Inseta council chair Ivan Mzimela, while still vice-chair, apparently ordered Inseta management to provide 31 learnerships to Hollard, where he was employed at the time. Each learnership cost Inseta R25,000

and, as per legislation, Hollard was able to claim double the amount in tax-deductions.

Shirley Steenekamp refused to turn a blind eye. In emails to the council, and to the council members concerned, she repeatedly pointed out that Inseta was countenancing actions that demonstrated direct conflict of interest. This, it seems, finally led to her losing her job at Inseta.

When Inseta was under pressure to clean its house, Christopher Kemp, as chair of the audit committee, called on a close friend, and fellow executive at Mutual & Federal, Dr Len Konar, of Outsourced Risk & Compliance Assessment, to undertake an investigation, which cost almost R1m. The investigation work should, by law, have been awarded by public tender: procurement law was broken to investigate impropriety in procurement.

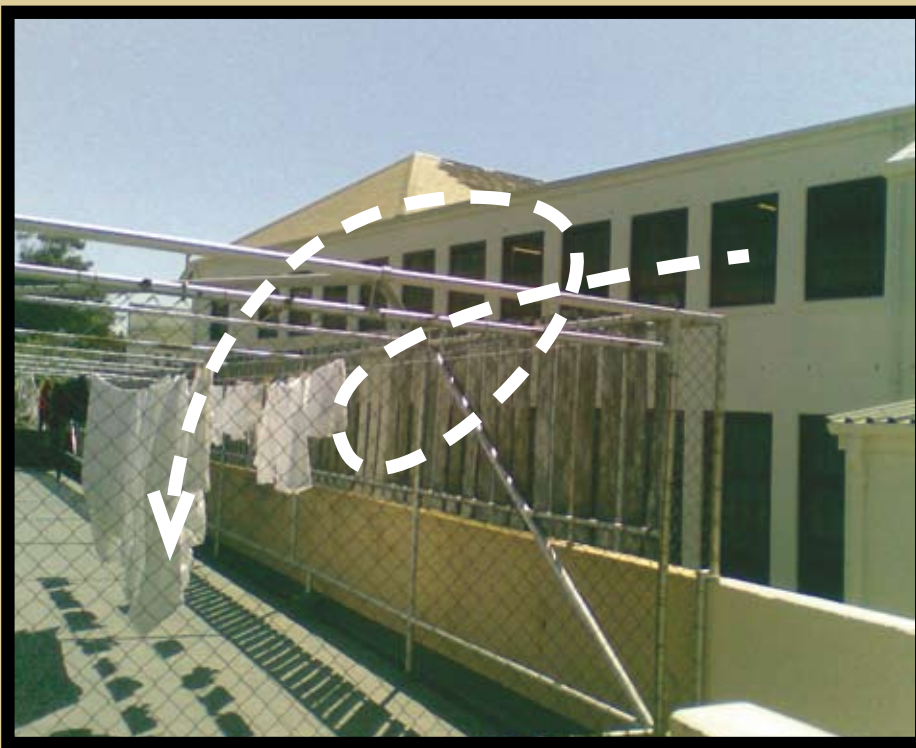
When *noseweek* finally got hold of the transcripts of Dr Konar's investigations it became clear that the Inseta council was offended that Steenekamp had reported cases of fraud to the Financial Services Board – cases that involved, among others, Absa, Santam and PSG Konsult Academy. For Steenekamp, of course, after years of futile complaints to the council, going to the FSB had been a last resort.

The records of Dr Konar's investigations show that the council appears to have been much more concerned that Steenekamp had approached the FSB, than with the fact that the FSB's Gerry Anderson had leaked confidential information she'd given him to some of the suspected corporations and to *Personal Finance's* Bruce Cameron.

Because she approached the FSB without the council's knowledge, Steenekamp was found to have brought Inseta and its council members into disrepute, and she was fired.

■ If one alleged crook has been let off the hook, another has not: the same disciplinary hearings which vindicated Shirley Steenekamp have confirmed that (now ex-) Inseta CEO Mike Abel successfully manipulated the procurement process at Inseta to favour tenders by JSE-listed Advtech Ltd (which employed his son Gregory), as reported in *noses* 108&110. ■

# Extra-murals at Bishops Prep



The trajectory of racist abuse and projectiles hurled from Bishops Prep classrooms at the hapless residents of the neighbouring apartments

**W**HITE SOUTH AFRICANS have been quick to condemn Julius Malema's recent racist jibes. But is this a case of the pot calling the kettle black (so to speak)?

The great and the good of Cape Town send their young sons to Bishops Preparatory, no doubt to ensure that, thick or not, they'll have no difficulty getting into Bishops College when the time comes. The prep school is situated in the idyllic surrounds of Rondebosch, within spitting distance of Devil's Peak and Table Mountain. Bishops Prep is, according to the website, a "happy, vibrant school where boys are nurtured spiritually and emotionally", and where "boys believe in themselves, respect and care for others, and grow up to be courageous men with a love of life".

Try telling that to the neighbours. The residents of neighbouring apartment complex Edingight have a hell of a time of it when they venture into the courtyard, which is overlooked by Bishops classrooms. Tomorrow's business leaders, it seems, enjoy screaming abuse at those who do mundane things, like hanging out the washing.

And if those people happen to be black, the taunts include the making of monkey noises, and calls of "hey monkey, want a banana?". It is, by all accounts, a bit like being a black player in a football match in Eastern Europe.

What's of particular concern is that the boys scream this abuse during school hours. Which makes you wonder where the teachers are.

*Noseweek* asked headmaster Greg Brown for comment. He was suitably horrified by the claims, and observed that, though the school is predominantly white, it does have an "assertive transformation policy". It seems that he has already fielded one complaint regarding boys throwing things onto neighbouring properties, but this was the first time he's heard allegations of racist abuse.

Brown speculated that the taunting might be taking place between class changeovers, and promised to launch an investigation at once. He said he would be referring the matter to his boss, the principal of Bishops College, for further comment. At the time of going to press, *noseweek* hadn't heard from the principal. □



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**WHEN SHORT-TERM INSURANCE** broker Bruno Lenhardt merged his Profguard Insurance Brokers with Mercantile Bank's Lisa brokers in 1998, he became MD of the new entity, called Mercguard Insurance Brokers.

However, the bank insisted that Lenhardt took on board three former Lisa employees – its sales director, commercial general manager and financial manager. The financial manager was one Salvatore Sanna.

Now Lenhardt, who bought Mercantile's 50% stake in 2004 – making him 100% owner of Mercguard – is suing Mercantile Bank, and its insurers Santam, for R8.7m, after discovering that that amount had been spirited out of Mercguard's bank accounts. In all, alleges Lenhardt, there were 747 withdrawals between April 2000 and September 2005 – and he names Salvatore Sanna as the thief.

A special audit revealed the money trail from Mercguard's four active bank accounts with Mercantile Bank to a fifth and supposedly dormant Mercantile account called the Matrix account. From there the money went to Sanna's personal account, or was paid to third parties in a total of 274 transactions.

The electronic withdrawals, according to court papers, totalled a modest R180,071 in 2000 and rose to R649,851 in 2001; in 2002 a total of R1,014,940 went; in 2003 the withdrawals totalled R1,892,115; in 2004 R2,257,444 and in 2005 they rose to a whopping R2,796,494.

Sanna sold his house in Brakpan and bought a 7ha smallholding – R40,000 of Mercguard's money went to pay for the fencing around it, says Lenhardt. "Sanna bought boats, caravans, cars, motorcycles; there were horses for his two young sons, and private schools. Sanna told us his father had made a lot of money when he sold the family business, a brass foundry, to a Malaysian group," declares Lenhardt.

Sanna and his wife Mandy, who are both 42, were arrested and charged with theft and fraud in November 2007. Both were released on bail (Sanna paid R30,000; his wife just R10,000) after pleading not guilty. But last November, in a plea bargain with the state, Sanna changed his plea to guilty in exchange for the withdrawal of charges against his wife.

However, when he appeared for the

# Not stealing! Just borrowing



umpteenth time at Johannesburg's Specialised Commercial Crime Court last December, Sanna told magistrate Van Vuuren that he did not steal the money; the company, he said, had simply constantly been lending him money. He went on to accuse the state of coercion by forcing him to plead guilty

in return for his wife's freedom.

This apparent breach of the plea bargain agreement caused consternation in court. "Well, we'll have to listen to what you have to say," said the magistrate. However, when Sanna turned up at court on 15 February he said he'd forgotten his papers. The next day



magistrate Van Vuuren was off sick. After that, prosecutor Elma Potgieter was away on maternity leave. Now the criminal case is only set to resume in July.

Lenhardt's R8.7m civil claim against Mercantile Bank alleges negligence. He says that under an agreement with the bank, all transfers from Mercguard's accounts required the signatures of two authorised signatories;

loss. Mercguard is in liquidation and he is now working for FNB Insurance Brokers as a branch manager.

David Brown, chief executive of Mercantile Bank, says: "I can't comment on the details. All I can say is that the matter is in the hands of Santam as the underwriters and they will deal with it accordingly. From our perspective we don't believe there's a basis for the claim at all."

Carlisle's bank account, one for R1,250,000, before fleeing the country. Mercantile, rather than disclosing who benefited from the transactions and refunding the



lost money, dug its legal counsel instructions to "drag the matter out till Carlisle runs out of money or dies".

They succeeded. After seven years Carlisle had run out of money. He died in March

2006, aged 68. His final attempt to uncover what happened to his money led him to write a friendly letter to chief executive David Brown. The bank responded with an attempt to have him committed to prison for being in contempt of a court order restraining him from communicating with anyone regarding his case. ■

## A bitter Lenhardt claims he has been wiped out by the massive loss

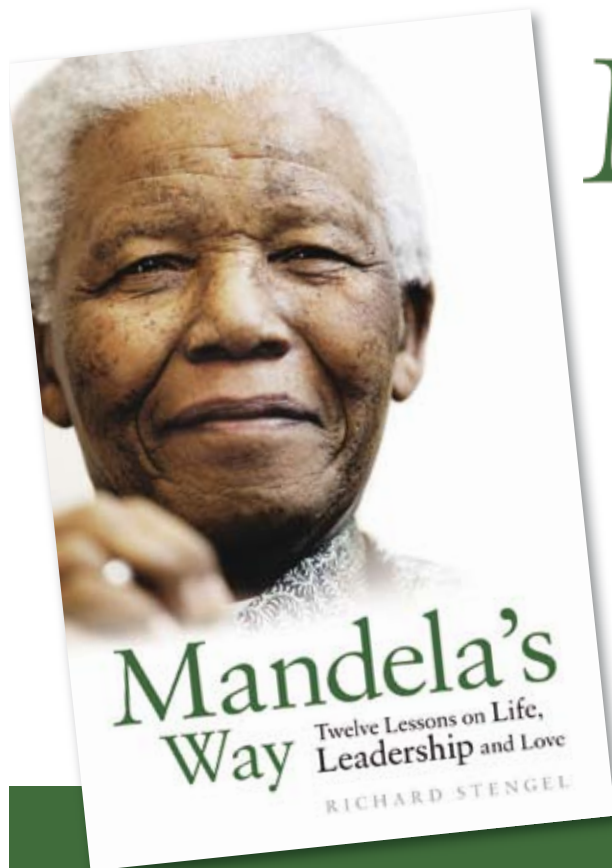
the R8.7m was withdrawn on just one – Sanna's.

Should Mercantile not be able to pay, then he's claiming the same amount from Santam, who are risk carriers for the bank's Blanket Bankers Bond policy.

A bitter Lenhardt, who's 56, claims he has been wiped out by the massive

■ Bruno Lenhardt's experience with Mercantile Bank bears a chilling resemblance to that of Johannesburg educationalist Dr Frank Carlisle, who was defrauded by Mercantile and its crooked then manager Rob Lowe (nos-49,54 and 85).

Lowe had been responsible for a dozen unauthorised transactions from



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# Sepp's blather

**A**S THE WORLD CUP CAMPAIGN builds orgasmically, courtesy of our star-struck media, a new consignment of Andrew Jennings' sensational exposé of Fifa's wicked ways is hitting the bookshops. Apparently the first paperback edition sold out quickly – not surprisingly. Word-of-mouth has it that the new consignment will also fly off the shelves. It's certainly a dramatic read – a thriller, really. With all the right ingredients: power, lust, greed and money, money, money.

Do the good guys win? No. But as long as investigative journalism of this calibre is practised, there is hope. *Foul!* is disillusioning for those innocents who cling to notions of sporting idealism. But the political tendentiousness that has characterised the whole South African World Cup campaign, with the dark hint that doubts will be interpreted as unpatriotic, has also bred a certain cynicism. Two minutes into Jennings' page-turning, intensely

LEN ASHTON

REVIEWS

**Foul!**

(HarperCollins)

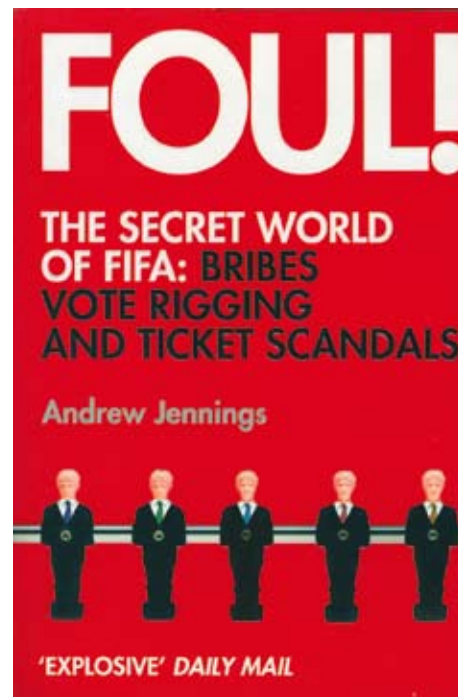
By

Andrew Jennings

researched style, and you begin to suspect your Standard Four egg-and-spoon triumph was probably rigged by your Ma. The likes of the current commercial manipulation of world sport have not been seen since Nero placed his bets at the Colosseum.

Even avid football fans are bristling at Fifa's authoritarian approach to running the bread-and-circuses events planned for our controlled admiration. So, for the dissidents, it is comforting to know that the entire nation is not cooing in uncritical adoration of Fifa and all its works. The game is almost incidental in context of the vast commercial enterprise that is Fifa. Loose talk of bribes and blandishments paid to international political and sporting worthies, at all levels, is now confirmed in spades. And the irony is that this Byzantine empire of obscene riches is maintained by the keepers of the beautiful game.

Hand-on-heart types who have invested in such items as "must-have" Bafana shirts for officially prescribed Friday wear should avert their eyes from *Foul!* It would be heartless to subject true believers of the Fifa faith to the fearful truth. As bossy broadcasters inquire daily whether thee and me have invested in outrageously



expensive Bafana tops (embossed with the prescribed correct branding), let us meditate on the happiness of the manufacturers who have signed the right contracts with the right people at the right prices.

Jennings recommends *Pitch Invasion* by Barbara Smit to "anyone who wants to learn more about how corporations took over world sport, trained its officials to be obedient and found intriguing ways to bribe them".

The villain of the piece is the Lord of Fifa, Sepp Blatter, who apparently has ways of getting precisely what he wants. But fearless Jennings has him in his sights. ▮

*Foul!* is published in paperback by Harpersport with a published price of R130. It is available from Loot.co.za for R109. We accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, or direct deposit to our ABSA bank account.

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## Half a colon is better than none

**MR NOSE HAD** A nostalgic chuckle when reading Alexander Maitland's excellent 2006 biography of his old friend Wilfred Thesiger, the explorer and author of *Arabian Sands*, *The Marsh Arabs* and *The Life of My Choice*.

Thesiger, who briefly befriended Mr Nose in North Africa in the late

60s, died in 2003, aged 93. In his later years Thesiger suffered from cataracts on both eyes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. When additionally inflicted with cancer, and facing the removal of half his colon, his surgeon reassured him: "Better a semi-colon than a full stop."



# Waiting till the cows go home



**B**E CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR because you just might get it. I cannot keep count of the times I have told myself this over the past two months. First, it was what I have dubbed “the native problem” – caused by my “brothers from other mothers” (fellow brothers, my butt) – who went on the rampage and stole nearly every litchi from my 14 litchi trees. Then there were the monkeys, which freely helped themselves to the mango crop.

Then came Mother Nature who thought the Lowveld of my beloved Mpumalanga was getting too hot, and decided to cool us down with massive rains – with the result that my little farm road now looks like a replica of

the Grand Canyon.

But get this: when I appealed to my Land Affairs project-manager to assist with funds to sort out the road, he tells me: “Bheki, when we asked you to give us a list of priorities for your farm you did not include the road. So at this point in time I cannot manipulate the budget to accommodate the road. You should have put it on the priority list.” “Well,” I say, “a few months ago the road was adequate, but the rains have made a bloody mess of it. For crying out loud, what you are saying would be like the UN disaster relief fund telling the Haitians they should have told them about the earthquake a year before it happened. How the hell was I to know we would be bombarded by such heavy

non-stop rains?”

The exchange did nothing to address my dilemma. So through the Grand Canyon I plough, in second gear, praying I don’t find myself upside down in one or other massively terrifying ditch.

Is that all? you ask. The native problem, the monkey problem and mother nature’s wrath? Hardly. Every damn day, and especially on a Sunday, I have to transform myself into a cow herder. Oh the torture.

You see, my little holding, all 60ha of it (ha ha, viva land transformation), sits a stone’s throw from a trust community, two residents of which are cattle breeders. Nothing wrong with that, you say; those trusts were meant to allow the natives to maintain the native

way of life. But no, there IS something wrong with that. Most trust lands are now covered by townships, with much of the land being cleared to make way for RDP houses. So these cattlemen neighbours no longer own grazing land, and their cows come streaming over to munch on my 60ha of bliss. And I'm talking about roughly 50 of them.

Each and every morning, before venturing out to take care of business, my loyal assistant and I must await the herd's arrival and go running about, chasing the beasts off the farm. He whacking at them with a stick and me doing target-practise with an airgun.

Now there's plenty of no-man's-land surrounding my modest out-of-Africa settlement, but the herdboys who are meant to guide the cattle there don't bother with that. Instead, the lazy bastards let the cattle out of the kraal and just let them to roam about wherever they please. Unfortunately my bit of Africa was unoccupied for a number of years and the bloody cattle got accustomed to venturing there. Oh, the torture.

Don't get me wrong: I know the law of the land – I mean land as in farmland, not as in "the country". I'm supposed to have the place fenced off. In partnership with Land Affairs, I'm busy organising that as fast as I can, and as soon as it's erected the law will be on my side – the cattle will be deemed trespassing, and I can have them confiscated. So I'm also getting ready for a serious confrontation with those cattlemen. No *ubuntu* here. Keep the damn things off my land.

I'm particularly looking forward to getting Sunday back, it being my only free day of the week. It's the day to do my laundry and kick back with the Sunday papers, whilst the washing dries in the sun. But kick back without worry I cannot – if even for one minute I didn't keep my ears fine-tuned to the clanking of the cow bell, my washing would surely be chewed to shreds. Who would have thought cattle could have a taste for cotton shirts?

There I slouch on my throw-cushions with the *Sunday Times* and *Sunday*

*Independent*, a cup of Java and a plate of eggs and toast (with strawberry jam; but sorry, no soft porridge – I am not one of those natives). And, of course, the trusty airgun at the ready. So much for kicking back.

And how did I come to endure such torture? I took advantage of the government's land-transformation programme and applied for a piece of farmland, in order to develop a chili-sauce manufacturing business which was already showing such promise that, within three months of launching it, I was supplying Spar supermarkets in the Lowveld (yes, my talents go beyond being a scribe – thank you very much).

I got my wish, and certainly a lot more. At the end of the day I guess I'm grateful to be blessed with my own little piece of African paradise – which came to me without being a drinking buddy of Julius Malema. Yes: I can refer to myself as a son of the soil, with all its toil. One Afrikaner acquaintance put it best when he told me: "Welcome to the white man's world." ■

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## Lettuce Lady

**W**ELL I THINK THESE BUS-STYLE taxis are just the thing, man. You always had the feeling in those bloody combis that the suspension just wasn't designed to handle such huge overloads of wriggling human flesh; the only available space was always about thirty cms wide in the furthest corner and the only way there was over the top of everybody else. Irritation was the main mood in a combi, 'mongst crew and cargo alike. These modern ones, now, they have an aisle down the middle, you can actually stand up and walk in there, and each seat is the designated width of a statistical human bum. I take mine to a double seat with a new-type Zulu lady on the window side. Lean. Old-type Zulu ladies, since you are what you eat, if you made a small incision in their skin and peeped inside what you would see there was solid phutu porridge, with plenty animal fat. Peep inside the skin of this one and you will see lettuce. They have transformed hippos into racehorses.

I like your hat, says she. Ja, say I, it's insangu, you know, a nice open weave so cool breezes can blow through. You mean cannabis? says she. Ja, boom, say I, a bloke sells them on the roadside at Ixopo. She looks closely. There are no pips or those nourishing little buds you put in your chicken stuffing, hey? says she. No, man, say I, Ixopo folks use those to fumigate their kitchens. Cockroaches, you know. These are the left-over fibres, it's just a pity to waste anything from such a fulsome plant as God gave us. It suits you, says she.

Comes to mind a certain piece recently in the HSF magazine *Focus*, by a seriously sociological ou whose name I forget, and he points out that nemmine the SA Miracle, there is a deep deep racist schism in our society which we will have to work at like it's a festering sore, and truesgod I must be stupid or something because I don't perceive anything festering round here with the lettuce lady. Comes to mind also E Terreblanche who fell off his Boerperd in the middle of Kerkplein, he of the green onder-



Illustration: Harold Strachan

broek, he who pushed his six years for attempted murder, who comes out unbowed but much sobered and declares he is going to relaunch the AWB, unarmed, and take his case to the UN. Well good on you, boet, think I, you must take your place in our political process, or is it pantomime? Comes to mind the Vryheidsfront: if the ANC is going to win an easy victory in some election you might as well vote tactically and make sure the VF keeps a place in Parliament. That's where your right wing should be. As LB Johnson said of some Republican racist sonofabitch: It's better to have him inside the tent pissing out than outside the tent pissing in. It would be passing strange were there not a whole heap of racism yet in this our bevokde country; the point is that it's lost its menace, it's not dangerous any more. There's a community of BEE ugly rich black bastards who have joined the community of ugly rich white bastards, that's where the power is, and they don't need any racist kak around here to muddy up their lives, thank you.

Why do you travel by taxi? says Lettuce. Because luckily I am vrek old and retired and I agree with David Attenborough that motor cars are an abomination in the eyes of the Lord and fuck up our health, our cities and our planet, say I, and I can get along without owning one. And you? No, says she, I got sick of having my cars stolen and I sat down and had a good think. Think how important the car-theft industry is for the economy, keeping the money moving, redistributing wealth. Think of all the jobs it creates, all those insurance workers paying out victims, those artisans in chop shops grinding serial numbers off engine blocks, new-car salesmen selling new cars, encouraging foreign trade. Et cetera. And it's no less productive of anything you can usefully eat, wear, shelter under or play sport with than most enterprises in this our frenzied capitalist system. Surely no less productive than the armaments industry. Waste and profit. That's the driving force.

Also car theft promotes the car-rental industry, says she. When I need to go out of town I rent a BMW, don't worry you nicks it. JEE-ZUZ! I exclaim, how do you come to have such a clear overview of Life? What is your employ that you have such elegant insight to things? I am the clerk of the Magistrate's court, says she, and in a sense I am able to judge everybody there, including the magistrate. Also I judge the fatcats who rule us and distribute none of their wealth. City Hall! the driver calls. My stop. Have a nice day, says Lettuce. Already I'm having a lovely one, say I. ■

## PAYMENT & TERMS FOR SMALLS

**Deadline** for smalls is the 1st of the month prior to publication.

**Smalls ads** are prepaid at R120 for up to 15 words, thereafter R15 per word plus VAT.

**Boxed ads** are R200 plus VAT per column cm (min 3cm deep).

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**Payment by direct transfer** should be made to Chaucer Publications; Account 591 7001 7966; First National Bank; Vineyard Branch; Branch code 204 209.

**Payment online** at [www.noseweek.co.za](http://www.noseweek.co.za).

**Email ads to** [ads@noseweek.co.za](mailto:ads@noseweek.co.za).

**Further info** Adrienne 021 686 0570.

## LEGAL, INSURANCE & FINANCIAL

**Legal services in Kenya?** Wanam Associates specialise in IP, Trade Mark, Corporate Law, Conveyancing/Property Law, ICT Law, Litigation, Legal Support/Resources; [www.wanam.com](http://www.wanam.com)

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**Desai Jaowat Inc** Chartered accountants at 202 Brickfield Road, Overport, Durban. Call 031 204 3311; [dji@dji.co.za](mailto:dji@dji.co.za)

**JD Hill & Co** Chartered accountants; 011 421 7146; fax 011 422 1442; [jdhill@iafrica.com](mailto:jdhill@iafrica.com)

**Tom Donaldson Investments** Global wealth management based in Sea Point. Call Tom or Wayne 021 439 3182; [Tom@globalwealth.co.za](mailto:Tom@globalwealth.co.za)

## FOR SALE

**Tinus & Gabriel de Jongh** paintings bought, sold and valued for estates and insurance. Art prints sold. Gallery open by appointment; 021 686 4141; [dejongh@yebo.co.za](mailto:dejongh@yebo.co.za); [www.tinusdejongh.co.za](http://www.tinusdejongh.co.za)

**Secondhand plastic pallets** bought and sold. [www.premierpallets.co.za](http://www.premierpallets.co.za); or 083 756 6897.

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## WANTED

**Does anyone wish** to sell an electric trouser press? Call 021 439 5784 and leave a message giving the asking price.

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# Property & Leisure

## PROPERTY TO BUY, SELL OR RENT

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**Oasis luxury retirement resort** Beautiful apartment with magnificent club facility at Century City. Call Owen Futeran 083 675 5886.

**Sandton Central** New executive self-catering cottage with 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 bathrooms, latest whirlpool appliances, excellent security; [agrinak@mweb.co.za](mailto:agrinak@mweb.co.za); [www.kikocottage.com](http://www.kikocottage.com)

**Mauritius** Trou aux Biches. 3 bedroom units for sale. 14 fully furnished units on beach. Call 083 236 8091; [www.plagebleue.mu](http://www.plagebleue.mu)

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**Clarens** Near Golden Gate in the beautiful eastern Free State: Rosewood Corner B&B offers all you want for a break from it all; 058 256 1252.

**Plettenberg Bay** Anlin Beach House B&B/Self-Catering. Affordable four-star luxury, 100m from Robberg Beach; 044 533 3694; See our website for special offers: [www.anlinbeachhouse.co.za](http://www.anlinbeachhouse.co.za); [stay@anlinbeachhouse.co.za](mailto:stay@anlinbeachhouse.co.za).

**Umhlanga** 2 bed/2 bath stunning, serviced sea-facing apartment with DSTV; [anne@pvalery.com](mailto:anne@pvalery.com); 082 900 1202.

**Arniston** Otolith guesthouse. Sgls, dble and family rooms available throughout year; meals on request. Lizette 076 082 9504.

**Paris** Beautiful sunny apartment 5min from Champs Elysees, fully equipped, sleeps 2; [anne@pvalery.com](mailto:anne@pvalery.com); 082 900 1202.

**Hermanus** Luxury home sleeps 10; ideal for two families; walking distance to village/cliff path; 083 564 8162.

**Provence** Cotignac, village house, stunning views, pool, sleeps 4–6; [rbsaunders@cwgsy.net](mailto:rbsaunders@cwgsy.net)

**Upper Newlands** Friston Lodge B&B, near Kirstenbosch. Comfortable affordable accommodation, garden setting. Solar-heated pool, DSTV. Sabine: [Sabine@stay-in-cape.com](mailto:Sabine@stay-in-cape.com); 076 156 2381.

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**Cape Town Burgundy Estate**, 1 Bedroom Apartment, abuts the vineyards of the Durbanville Hills and De Grendel wine estates. Gary 082 410 6442.

**Wilderness Dunes** Panoramic sea view. Stunning, 4-bedroomed, 160sqm house. One week every year. Call 021 554 1564; [telenova@telkomsa.net](mailto:telenova@telkomsa.net)

**Fish Hoek** 3-bedroomed, sea front home a few steps from the beach; 082 557 4477.

**Swellendam** De Wagenhuis Guest House. Taste Cape farm life in luxurious old historic monument. Call 028 512 3656; 082 565 6789; [info@dewagenhuis.com](mailto:info@dewagenhuis.com)

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**Durban North** Honeycomb Guest House accommodation for people in the nose. Call 031 563 8806.

**Sanbonani/Hazyview/Kruger** Chalet with 3-bedrooms en suite 27 August to 3 September. Call 011 787 8904.

**Waenhuiskrans** Sea view, self-catering cottage sleeps 6. R800 per night per room. Call Wessel 076 082 9504.

**San Lameer, KZN** 2 bedroom 4 sleeper villa. Paradise with golf membership, DSTV. Call 082 449 3159.

**Sabie River Timeshare** Week to rent; 6 bed chalet available week starting 28 May 2010. R3 700, which includes guest certificate. Call Coleen 083 252 6164.

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**All the smalls ads on these pages are included in the online edition of noseweek at no extra cost**

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