For Leadership:

The 20th Century will also be known as the period when autocratic/authoritarian regimes moved towards rather uncertain democratic outcomes. Each country has its own peculiarities in this transition. And identifying them enables one to better understand the dynamics of the current situation. SA is no different. A couple of factors stand out:

1. SA moved from extreme repressive stability under a National Security Management System (NSMS) towards consensual stability under a federal democratic constitution.

2. This was achieved through a process of negotiation between parties i.e. the ANC and the NP who, for most of their struggle against each other, were they would rather die than talk to each other.

3. The NSMS played a critical role in promoting negotiations and once this was successful lost all its political relevance. Today SA has no polarised military to speak of.

4. The consequence of the above was to open up enormous scope for civil society action. At the same time the "liberation struggle" not only promised freedom but also delivering one had to bear to glance at the Freedom Charter to realise this.

5. However, just as the ordinary deprived individuals experienced state repression they also expected
a liberated State to provide essential services. It has become abundantly clear that the
liberated State has neither the capacity or infrastructure to bring about efficient
delivery in housing, healthcare, education, etc.
4. The question then becomes: What is the
central counter-balance force that holds the ANC
together in the new order? There is no simple
answer to this question. In the struggle it
was the dream of liberation. Now that this
has been achieved it would seem to be
the idea of dispersing patronage & privilege. Zuma
was quick to realise this and has made
of his central political platform: "Vote for me
and you will have services and jobs." At the
same time this highlights the failure of
the "African" regime.
5. However, the pervasiveness of corruption in
both camps is creating a ground swell of
anger and rejection amongst old and
new ANC members. I have spoken to some
of them from Soweto and the attitude
seems to be: "a curse on both the houses
of Zuma & Mbeki." It is going to be
fascinating to see how this will manifest
itself electorally. I think it is
too late for a new party to be ready in
time for the next election and anticipate a low voter turnout as
a mark of protest.
8. However the lack of efficient delivery is likely to persist and I anticipate more and more of the aggressive, anarchy that is beginning to manifest itself. Here I think not only of China, but also special interest lobbies like women, youth, organised labour, etc.

9. Given the instability that this will create and the reluctance of foreign/domestic investors, is there the likelihood of a resurgence of the military playing a more interventionist role?

10. Or can the ANC manage the change from liberation to movement to political party to efficient government successfully? Keep a close watch on the build-up to the next general election.