

# iMaverick

BETA

A close-up photograph of a man with a determined expression, shouting or speaking passionately into a silver microphone. He is wearing a dark grey t-shirt and a gold watch. To his left, another man's face is partially visible, looking towards the speaker. To his right, another man's face is visible, looking forward with a serious expression. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor public gathering.

## CALM BEFORE THE STORM

By CARIEN DU PLESSIS & STEPHEN GROOTES

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# A DAY IN PICTURES



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A reveller is covered with tomato pulp after the annual "Tomatina" (tomato fight) in the Mediterranean village of Bunol, near Valencia August 31, 2011. The origin of the tomato fight is disputed - everyone in Bunol seems to have a favourite story - but most agree it started around 1940, in the early years of General Francisco Franco's dictatorship.  
REUTERS/Heino Kalis

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Irina Falconi of the U.S. celebrates after defeating Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia in their match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, August 31, 2011. REUTERS/Lucy Nicholson

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A dancer in body paint waits for his performance during festivities marking the start of the annual harvest festival of "Onam" in the southern Indian city of Kochi August 31, 2011. The ten-day-long festival is celebrated annually in India's southern coastal state of Kerala to symbolise the return of King Mahabali to meet his beloved subjects. REUTERS/Sivaram V

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Malema disciplinary action, Day Two: The crowd never broached 200, not even when a large group of school children arrived mid-afternoon. They did manage to make their presence felt, though, marching through streets with impunity again, and sometimes with the help of traffic-directing metro police. Arresting the group for disrupting traffic with an illegal demonstration (no permits have been issued) still didn't come up, though. PHILLIP DE WET for iMaverick.

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Malema disciplinary action, Day Two: Riot police, metro police and general police remained on standby too, but had little to keep them busy. By sunset the razor wire barriers came down again, the water cannons left, and policemen couldn't say whether they'd be returning on Thursday. The policeman who took a rock to the head on Tuesday was back on duty and at Luthuli House, though he wasn't keen to show off his stitches for the camera or answer questions. PHILLIP DE WET for iMaverick.

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Malema disciplinary action, Day Two: Two demonstrators – two of the most heavily photographed demonstrators – brought symbolic weapons to the fight on Wednesday. The symbolism was a little confusing, though: the ANC and the SACP are on the other side of the fence from the protesters. PHILLIP DE WET for iMaverick.

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Malema disciplinary action, Day Two: The media remained at their posts, even if very little of interest happened; no press conferences, no confrontations between demonstrators and police, and only one speech with no content. PHILLIP DE WET for iMaverick.

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# IT HAPPENED OVERNIGHT



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## POLITICS

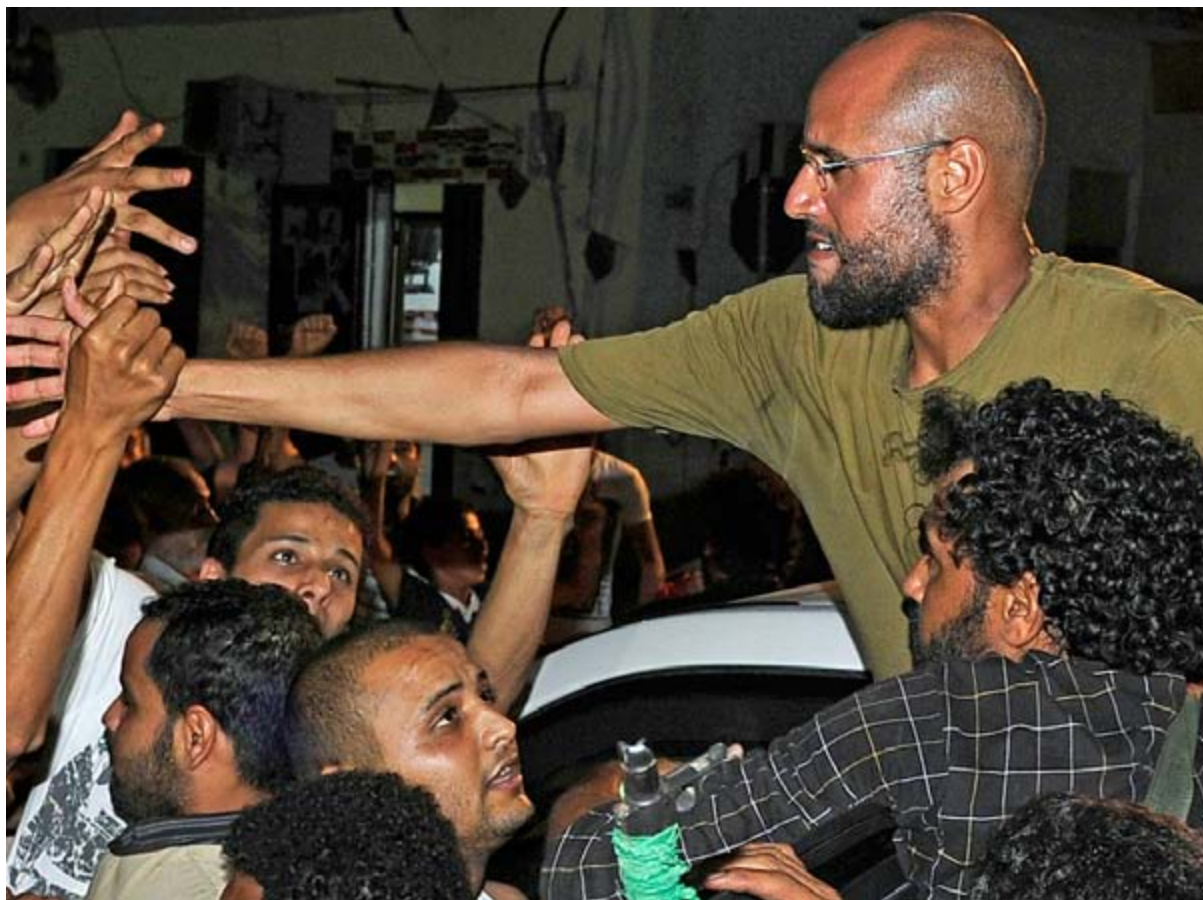
**SOUTH AFRICA**

The ANC's disciplinary committee refused a motion by Julius Malema's legal team to have three members of the committee recuse themselves for reasons of bias. Malema had wanted committee chairman Derek Hanekom, mining minister Susan Shabangu and minister in the presidency Collins Chabane off the decision-making team, but insufficient evidence that they were prejudiced against him meant this was rejected. If Malema only wants to deal with people he hasn't previously argued with, then he may find himself in this situation repeatedly.

The South African National Editors Forum has expressed concern about the failure of the ANC's ad hoc committee to insert a public interest defence provision in the Protection of Information Bill. Sanef, in a statement scribed by Mondli Makhanya, rejected the implication that public interest would place journalists above the law, and claimed it would suit anyone who had information about illegalities.

**USA**

Rick Perry's rise in the ratings for the Republican presidential nomination has forced Mitt Romney to get more aggressive in courting Tea Party-aligned voters.



Saif al-Islam (Reuters)

After months of trying to secure the independent vote, Romney changed his schedule to appear at two Tea Party events and dropped a jab at career-politician Perry, saying, "Career politicians got us into this mess, and they simply don't know how to get us out." Romney has previously worked as a venture capitalist before entering politics and governing Massachusetts.

**ALGERIA**

The opposition party in Algeria has lambasted the government for permitting Muammar Gaddafi's family members to enter and remain in the country. We don't think there's an opposition party in the world that wouldn't take the opportunity to denounce that one.

**LIBYA**

Saif al-Islam (aka Said Gaddafi, Brother Leader's favourite son) has released an audio message saying that he is on the outskirts of Tripoli, Papa Bear is fine and victory was near. Victory, indeed, seems near. Gaddafi supporters have until Saturday to surrender before the transitional national council will send in its army.

**USA**

US President Barack Obama set a date for his big speech on jobs ... at the same time as the next scheduled Republican presidential nominee debate. House majority leader John Boehner asked Obama to move the speech to the following day, a wish to which the president conceded. Just like the debt-ceiling bill.

**UGANDA**

Police banned a proposed demonstration in Kampala intended to celebrate the victories of citizens over corrupt and dictatorial rulers in north Africa. The march is banned on the ground it could incite violence. What is entirely more likely is that pamphlets advertising the protest have a nice big picture of President Museveni, claiming he will go next. Museveni still has a full 16 years to serve before he matches Muammar Gaddafi's 42-year reign in Libya.

**FRANCE**

President Nicolas Sarkozy has criticised the US for pushing Europe out of the way as the Middle East peace process progresses, and also questioned the make-up of the usual quartet (US, United Nations, European Union and Russia) dealing with Israel and Palestine, claiming more countries should join in.

**SYRIA**

The attorney general of Syria, Adnan Bakkour, resigned after witnessing a mass execution of 72 protestors at a prison on 31 July. Bakkour, whose resignation was recorded on video, also listed atrocities committed by the strong arm of his former boss, President Bashar al-Assad's, government: 10,000 protestors in jail, 420 bodies buried in mass graves in public parks, 320 dead while



President Museveni of Uganda (Reuters)

undergoing torture, families buried alive while their houses were demolished and 473 have died during Ramadan.

**WORLD**

WikiLeaks has denied it is responsible for putting human lives in danger in a series of posts on Twitter, blaming the media which spread the cables instead. You know, someone else's fault. Now, what kind of entity specialises at passing the blame on...? Ah yes, government.

**NIGERIA**

The Nigerian Red Cross has told the press that 102 people have died, some by being trapped in buildings, during flooding in the south-western city of Ibadan, about 130km from Lagos. Authorities say the rain this year is above

normal levels and that 2,000 people have been displaced.

**UK**

The Royal Air Force has taken \$212 million in unfrozen assets from the UK to Libya's central bank. The cash should be able to refill ATM machines and pay public sector workers up to and over the Eid holiday. This is the first batch of \$1.5 billion of Gaddafi's stashed assets which will be returned under the administration of the transitional national council.

**PANAMA**

The President of Panama, Ricardo Martinelli, fired his foreign minister and declared the coalition government of the central American nation over. This all seems to stem from the foreign



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg (Reuters)

minister, Juan Carlos Varela, declaring presidential ambitions.

## USA

In an interview with Reuters former secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice refuted claims in Dick Cheney's book that she was naïve in negotiations with North Korea, and misled her superiors. Rice and Cheney have bashed heads over North Korea before, but more significantly, this means that at least one person has read "In My Time: A Personal and Political Memoir".

## BUSINESS

A senior technology reporter on CNBC claimed on Wednesday

that Facebook would launch a music service in September. This was backed up by a Reuters report which claimed it spoke to people familiar with the project. Facebook declined to comment, but, according to Reuters, the platform will not be done in-house, but with online music partners, such as Spotify and Rhapsody.

Pfizer and an Indian pharmaceutical company called Dr Reddy's Laboratories have settled a patent infringement suit regarding Reddy's generic of Pfizer's (and the world's) biggest selling drug, Lipitor. The details of the settlement have not yet been disclosed, so trying to work out how this compromise will suit the parties is impossible, as things stand.

The future of car producer, Saab, could be in doubt after revised earnings expectations plummeted to a second quarter loss of \$220 million, and its balance sheet showed negative equity higher than its total half-year earnings. Saab management is actively trying to secure extra funding as suppliers have not been paid for so long they are no longer providing their product. This has harshly affected production, which has been halted since April.

Although most of August was pretty much a horror movie, the S&P 500 had its best 8-day run in two years, up 8.5% since 19 August while the Dow also rose. These rises overshadowed the government filing a lawsuit



Exxon Mobil (Reuters)

against AT&T's \$39 billion purchase of T-Mobile, although AT&T's share price shrank 3.9% at the announcement. Hong Kong shares opened 1.2% higher with the Hang Seng having risen to 20,790.22.

A deal between Exxon Mobil and Rosneft, Russia's state-controlled oil company would give the Russian enterprise part ownership of projects in Texas and New Mexico. While it seems alarming and will have thousands of opinions expressed over it, it is unlikely that politicians will fiddle in the deal, as Russia doesn't really need the oil.

South Korean inflation rose to a 3-year high, pressuring the Bank of Korea, the country's central bank, to increase interest rates. Consumer prices rose 5.3% com-

pared to August last year, more than the 4.7% in July.

Brazil cut interest rates from 12.5% to 12%, bringing its seven-month tightening period to a close. The Brazil government has taken repeated flak for preparing for a global economic downturn for which opponents claim there is no evidence.

## SPORT

### UK

Football: Last night was the close of the transfer window and this is a very brief summary of some of the big names who transferred late: Stoke City probably had the best run of all clubs, welcoming Wilson Palacios and Peter Crouch

from Spurs, and Cameron Jerome from Birmingham. Arsenal nabbed Yossi Benayoun and Mikel Arteta, Villa bought Jermaine Jenas from Spurs, Yakubu joined Villa from Everton, Raul Meireles moved from Liverpool to Chelsea, Craig Bellamy will rejoin former club Liverpool, Owen Hargreaves moved to the blue side of Manchester as a free agent, Queens Park Rangers brought in Shaun Wright-Phillips and Anton Ferdinand, and Sunderland bought Nicklas Bendtner from Arsenal.

### USA

Tennis: Venus Williams withdrew from the US Open because she is sick, robbing us of the chance to watch her play the hard-hitting German, Sabine Lisicki in round two. Robin Soderling withdrew



Venus Williams (Reuters)

from the men's draw earlier in the day with a wrist injury and a virus.

The only men's seed to fall at the US Open on Wednesday was number 10, Nichola Pietrangeli who went down to Julien Benneteau in straight sets. Andy Murray and former champion Juan Martin del Potro cruised through. In the women's draw, Marion Bartoli was defeated by American teenager, Christina McHale 7-6, 6-2.

### PORTUGAL

Football: Ricardo Carvalho has retired from international football, diva-style. The centre-back walked out of a training camp and whined to the media about a lack of respect and dignity. He doesn't seem to have gone into any further detail. With the amount of money footballers

make, they should be happy to sacrifice some respect and dignity on the national stage.

### SOUTH AFRICA

Football: Matthew Booth looks set to join Ajax Cape Town on a free transfer after his contract with Sundowns expired. Booth, currently injured, will be back in training by September and should be back on the field soon after that, so that Europeans can report again on how the black fans in South Africa boo the white players.

### LIFE

#### UK

The oldest person ever to swim across the English Channel at the ripe old age of 70 has said he was delirious by the time he reached the French coastline. For

some, like me, swimming in the Atlantic at all would be a sign of delirium.

### CANADA

The broadcast council in Canada has ruled that the Dire Straits song, "Money for Nothing", can continue to be played on radio stations even though it contains the word "faggot" three times. The band's lead, Mark Knopfler, has always maintained that the use of the word was contextual and related to a point of view of a man who was the basis for the song.

### USA

Mel Gibson will pay his ex-girlfriend a sum of \$750,000 in three payments with other funds due to go to the couple's daughter when she turns 18. Neither party may produce any books, articles or "additional tapes" until 2016 when the final payment is made. You know, so we don't have to listen to Gibson go off again.

Alyssa Milano has given birth to a healthy boy in Los Angeles and called him Milo. If you're older than 26, you'll know her as Tony Danza's daughter in the classic sit-com, "Who's The Boss". If you're younger she was in some show about witches called "Charmed".



# SOUTH AFRICA



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## LAND REFORM GREEN PAPER TABLED

Rural development and land affairs minister Gugile Nkwini tabled the much-delayed green paper on land reform before Parliament on Wednesday to mixed reviews. The green paper proposes a four-tiered system of land reform and sets up a land management commission that would have the power to invalidate title deeds and seize land obtained through corrupt means. The DA called some of the green paper's provisions unconstitutional and questioned the need to have the land management commission report to the land affairs minister.

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## PRESIDENT ZUMA PAYS RESPECTS TO VICTIMS OF OSLO ATTACKS

During his official state visit to Norway, President Jacob Zuma on Wednesday visited a church in Oslo to pay respects to victims of the Norway terror attacks. Zuma, accompanied by the ministers of foreign affairs,



Land reform (Reuters)

trade and education, is in Norway to strengthen relations and cooperation with Norway.

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## NO PUBLIC INTEREST DEFENCE IN SECRECY BILL

Despite calls by civil society organisations and opposition political parties, the ANC has refused to include a public interest defence in the protection of information bill. A public interest defence would allow members of the public and journalists to disclose classified information without sanction should it be in the interest of the public. With the deadline for finalising the bill weeks away, the Right2Know cam-

paign has said the bill – which, given the ANC's majority, is likely to pass in its current form – still fails the test of democracy.

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## BLIKKIESDORP LIVING WITH VIOLENCE DAILY

Eyewitness News reported that Blikkiesdorp residents have accused the police of turning a blind eye to the violence plaguing the informal settlement outside of Cape Town. In the latest incident, a Congolese woman was attacked at her home by three pipe-wielding men. Police have said they're investigating the incident. Blikkiesdorp gained interna-



Malema disciplinary (Reuters)

tional fame ahead of the soccer World Cup when the City of Cape Town was accused of hiding its homeless there.

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### MPS CRITICISE ACRONYM-FILLED GCIS REPORT

Business Day reported that members of Parliament criticised GCIS's quarterly report for lacking clarity and containing unexplained acronyms. The MPs said they were interested in seeing what GCIS had done to ensure that government was communicating its activities properly and criticised

the report for not providing that insight. GCIS CEO Jimmy Manyi, who took over late last year from Themba Maseko, has been critical of the media's reporting and planned to convert an existing GCIS publication into a government newspaper.

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### MALEMA DISCIPLINARY ADJOURNED, POLICE ARREST PROTESTORS

The ANC said in a statement on Wednesday that the charge of barging into an ANC meeting has been removed from Julius Malema's charge sheet.

Malema will now appear with the other charged youth league members on Friday. Meanwhile, police say they have identified and arrested some of the youths who had thrown bricks and other objects at police and journalists on Tuesday as they tried to make their way to Luthuli House to show support for Malema.

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### PIK BOTHA STABLE AFTER HEART FAILURE

Apartheid era foreign affairs minister Pik Botha is in a Pretoria hospital following heart



Caption (Reuters)

failure on Wednesday morning, Sapa reported. His wife Ina told SABC radio that Botha's heart had failed because decades of smoking had damaged his lungs irreversibly. Doctors said Botha is under supervision but is in a stable condition.

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### PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS NOT PRIORITISING PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Public Service Commission said on Wednesday that the Western Cape was the only province to have filed its performance agreements with department heads by the 31 July deadline. The commission's

chairperson said the Free State was the worst of the stragglers, having filed only one of its 12 performance agreements. The PSC would be conducting roadshows to increase departments' awareness of the importance of the performance management process.

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### NUM ACCEPTS ANGLO'S 10% OFFER

The National Union of Mineworkers on Wednesday said its members have "overwhelmingly" accepted Angloplatinum's two-year wage increase offer. The lowest paid workers get 10% in the first year and 9%

in the second. The union said it is still in dispute with Impala Platinum, Northam Platinum and Lonmin.

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### R50 MILLION WORTH OF DRUGS CONFISCATED AT OR TAMBO THIS YEAR

South Africa has this year arrested 80 people at OR Tambo International Airport and stopped R50 million worth of drugs from entering the country, according to police spokesman Colonel Vish Naidoo. The drugs confiscated have included cocaine, crystal meth and heroine.



## ANALYSIS: A POINT IN SOUTH AFRICA'S TIME-SPACE CONTINUUM

We have by now all seen and heard the shouting, screaming, and general pandemonium that ensued outside Luthuli House, the ANC headquarters, on Tuesday. There is plenty to say and even more to consider over the next few days. The message that violence and protests can send us isn't new. But the fact that this occurred during what is essentially an intra-party struggle is new. And that message is important. By STEPHEN GROOTES.

About a month ago, at a [debate on mine nationalisation](#), Dr Frans Cronje from the SA Institute of Race Relations gave what has since become his stump speech. It's a detailed but succinct presentation on the population bulge, and the fact that most of youth are unemployed. In fact, most of people aged between 25 and

34 will never work in their lives. He goes on to point out there has been a twin failure, that both economics and politics have failed these people. While Julius Malema's supporters were throwing stones and rocks at police

Photo: Phillip de Wet for iMaverick

and journalists on Tuesday, this is what went through my mind. Along with the urgent need for self-preservation, of course.

There are dozens of reasons for these failures. The fact is, it would be hard to get an economy as racially divided as South African was (or still is), to change over the short period of less than 20 years. At the same time, there was never a real national effort to repeat the effort similar to some Asian countries. There is a reason for that. In those countries that have made huge economic strides quickly, say West Germany or Japan, there was consensus. Here, the ruling party itself can't even agree on a job creation policy.

In South Africa, every single detail is contested. The slightest comment nudge or hint of a policy shift in any direction brings a huge reaction. It's about free speech, the reaction to apartheid, and then to Thabo Mbeki. But you have to wonder if it's really worth it to keep our political culture in this economic cul de sac, when the real result is unemployment.

At the same time, of course, we don't want a return to apartheid, or even some aspects of Mbeki's rule, come to think of it. But the problem is that parts of those are appealing. Look at the way Malema's supporters behave, and the way he treats them. They are "soldiers", "revolutionaries". He is all Che Guevara, beretted and with a T-shirt of a former soldier, Chris Hani. His more popular songs are marching tunes, calls to war, to violence. To some, this might evoke memories of Hitler's private army of young men. The difference, perhaps, is that most of those young men, and certainly their leaders, had fought in a war, had had military training in the First World War. Here, despite

**In South Africa, every single detail is contested. The slightest comment nudge or hint of a policy shift in any direction brings a huge reaction. It's about free speech, the reaction to apartheid, and then to Thabo Mbeki.**

our violent past, it wasn't quite like that, and Malema, despite his protestations, certainly doesn't have that kind of background. Even if he'd love the romance of it. And the leather.

And of course, unlike Japan and West Germany, we are not homogenous, and our differences are often wholly apparent by the way we look. Which doesn't help.

Then we have the political failure of an attempt to have one party rule. The ANC, like any other political party in a democracy, would like all the votes all the time. This means that arguments and debates are held within structures and not out in the open. When those structures fail, as they will inevitably, people have no other way to achieve their aims, but violence. This is really what we saw on Tuesday. People frustrated with the way their leader,

**In a way, it could fix itself. Say Malema gets kicked out, and despite all predictions to the contrary, is able to harness these angry young people into some kind of movement. That would have some serious impact on our politics.**

hero, general was being treated, and thus doing the only thing they could. Lashing out.

Right, now to the bigger issue: how to fix it.

In a way, it could fix itself. Say Malema gets kicked out, and despite all predictions to the contrary, is able to harness these angry young people into some kind of movement. That would have some serious impact on our politics. Firstly, the opposition would no longer be the DA, but a militant leftward movement. That would probably push economic policy to the left, and possibly social policy to the right. As capitalists, we wouldn't like that much.


But what we would be very pleased about is that it could keep people who currently protest, voting. They would have a stake in the electoral system. This would keep them involved in electoral politics, voting rather than marching. Hopefully. It would also provide opposition (sorry Helen). That would be hugely welcome, there would be a real contest for votes, rather than the fights over identities between tea ladies and right wing demagogues that we are currently saddled with.

The other possibility is that the ANC really suffers long term damage to its unity through all of the mess it managed to amass. In other

words, some kind of future split is perhaps brought forward. Probably with the same results for electoral politics as outlined above.

Unfortunately, what is still quite likely, is that whatever happens over the next few days, the ANC is likely to just become more and more unstable, which helps no one. It means no direction, no resolution on difficult issues, and simple stagnation. It means more acceptance of mediocrity or worse, and bumbling, because everyone wants to rock the boat, but just a little, never enough to capsize it.

Of course that also depends on leadership. It is possible, although perhaps unlikely, that President Jacob Zuma and co, if they beat Malema, could suddenly get moving. He could, within the space literally of a busy month, have a reshuffle, tell Cosatu to back down on jobs and youth wage subsidies, and get everything moving.

It's not the most likely scenario perhaps, but one that would give all of us hope. It would be the midway point between the Mbeki organisation, and the completely free, but dysfunctional society we have now. 

*Grootes is an [EWN](#) reporter.*

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## MALEMA HEARING TAKES A BREATH

Some charges against ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema might be dropped on Friday, but for at least one other charge, he would have to stand in the dock with his fellow leaders. It wasn't the swift justice the ANC had hoped for, but at least they're allowing Malema to feel that he can put up a good fight. CARIEN DU PLESSIS reports.

Only one day was set aside for ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema's disciplinary hearing, but it's set to drag out all week after his lawyers questioned the procedure and the charges against Malema at every turn.

On Wednesday Malema's representatives, senior counsel Patric Mtshaulana and advocate Dali Mpofu, concluded their argument, started on Tuesday afternoon, for the charges against him to be dropped.

The ANC's prosecutors, deputy justice minister Andries Nel and senior counsel Gcina Malindi, had not even had a chance yet to put the substance of the party's case to Malema.

The ANC's disciplinary committee issued an update on the case on Wednesday night after proceedings were adjourned around 4pm.

The committee said the charge relating to barging into the meeting of ANC officials was removed from Malema's charge sheet "for the sake of convenience" and would be heard with the other four Youth League officials (deputy president Ronald Lamola, secretary-general Sindiso Magaqa, his deputy Kenetswe Masenogi and treasurer Pule Mabe) on Friday.

It is likely that evidence would be led on this

Photo: Phillip de Wet for iMaverick.

**The charge relating to barging into the meeting of ANC officials was removed from Malema's charge sheet "for the sake of convenience" and would be heard with the other four Youth League officials on Friday**

charge, and the facts in the case, the witnesses and representatives of the League's officials are the same.

According to insiders, Malema's representatives questioned the process, saying Malema heard about the charges against him in the media before he had heard from the disciplinary committee.

The committee issued a statement an hour or two after the story broke last month that the charges had been delivered on Malema.

Malema's lawyers also questioned the charges, arguing that some of them are baseless and should be quashed completely.

One of the charges they regarded as flimsy is the one relating to the League's pronouncements on wanting to effect a regime change in Botswana by siding with the opposition – the issue that sparked the hearing.

On some of the other charges, Malema's counsel argued that he had said things on behalf of the League's members and should be charged with them.

The most serious charge Malema would want to see dropped is that of sowing divisions in the ANC by saying SADC and the AU had not experienced real leadership since former President Thabo Mbeki left.

He had received a suspended sentence on a similar charge last year, comparing Mbeki and President Jacob Zuma, and if found guilty again, would be kicked out of the party for a certain number of years.

The substance of the accusations against him had not been addressed yet.

Drawing out the process could work in the disciplinary committee's favour because it would satisfy Malema and his representatives that the hearing is fair and the arguments had been aired properly.

Politically, the delay would also give a chance for tempers to calm after Malema's supporters got violent and burnt pictures of Zuma outside Luthuli House on Tuesday at the start of Malema's hearing, and for consultations to take place.

On Wednesday only a handful of supporters gathered outside Luthuli House, some dressed in T-shirts with former president Thabo Mbeki's face on, and the gathering was without major incident.

But the longer the process, the more ammunition for Malema to argue that the whole thing should be called off because justice delayed would be justice denied.

He told journalists on Monday that there had been attempts from the League's side to find "political solutions" the charges, which he reckons are politically motivated. "One of those solutions is to finish this DC (disciplinary case) as quickly as possible because the more it drags on, the more it damages the image of the organisation. So all of us are going into that

DC with the understanding that we will find a solution as soon as possible.”

Despite the small victory of persuading the ANC not to move the venue of the hearing, Malema had suffered several setbacks in the past two days.

First, he was denied his request for three disciplinary committee members, including chairman and deputy science and technology minister Derek Hanekom, to recuse themselves. This would have meant the committee would have had to be reconstituted.

The ANC said the request for recusal was turned down because “insufficient facts had been advanced to show bias or a perception of bias on the part of these three members”.

Then his third representative, Muzi Sikhakhane, the lawyer who represented him in his hate speech case, [was forced to step down](#) as he was not an ANC member in good standing.

The postponement of the case so that the disciplinary committee could deliberate about the charges on Thursday, is therefore a bit of a breather for Malema as these arguments had not been rejected out of hand.

By Wednesday it seemed Malema had lost even more sympathy as the ANC’s leadership in the Eastern Cape (the chairman, MEC Phumulo Masualle, is also SACP treasurer) condemned the actions of League supporters on Tuesday.

Student organisation Cosas, labour federation Cosatu and the SACP had already expressed their dismay about events.

A source with knowledge about these processes also questioned why Malema could not find an elder from the ANC to represent him. Such a person would have helped him in his case to find a political solution to his

**Drawing out the process could work in the disciplinary committee’s favour because it would satisfy Malema and his representatives that the hearing is fair and the arguments had been aired properly.**

problem, as he had wanted to, or they would have had at least the know-how to effect a plea bargain.

In the event, he took the legal route and employed lawyers.

Spokesman Floyd Shivambu’s hearing, which was supposed to have taken place on Wednesday, has been postponed. He faces a charge in connection with the League’s pronouncements on Botswana and for telling a journalist to “fuck off”. [iM](#)

#### READ MORE:

1. Malema hearing: the League’s hands off approach fails in [Daily Maverick](#)
2. Violence Inc: Luthuli House scenes a bitter taste of Polokwane fruits in [Daily Maverick](#)
3. Luthuli House changes its mind about Luthuli House in [Daily Maverick](#)



## RIGHT2KNOW TURNS 1

It's the Right2Know campaign's first birthday, but there's little time to celebrate. While the organisation has had an action-packed year and achieved no small gains, the real battle (yes, that would be fighting the secrecy bill) continues. By THERESA MALLINSON.

The stature Right2Know has gained in civil society in South Africa in the past year makes it seem a lot older than a mere 12 months. But then, there's been a lot of work to do. "The initial impetus was obviously the (Protection of Information) bill, and it was really a group of concerned individuals – some in NGOs, social movements, academics, journalists – who wanted to have a public presence and a

public voice on this," says Right2Know Gauteng spokesman Dale McKinley.

"For the first three months it really was just that sort of smaller group of individuals and NGOs and others who came up with the initial statement, and then decided there needed to be some kind of public activity – and that's when

Photo: Right2Know

(we had) the first march on the Constitutional Court late last year, but it was not an organised structure,” McKinley adds. “There really wasn't anything in the context of offices, elected people, and those sorts of things.”

This changed when Right2Know hosted its first national conference in Cape Town in January. A national structure was established and working groups set up. Resolutions were also passed on all the key issues the Right2Know campaign ended up adopting. Right2Know has seven demands it wants to see reflected in the Protection of Information Bill:

1. *The Bill should apply only to core state bodies in the security sector such as the police, defence and intelligence agencies.*
2. *Even then, the Bill's powers must be limited to strictly defined national security matters and no more. Officials must give reasons for making information secret.*
3. *Exclude commercial information from this Bill.*
4. *Do not exempt the intelligence agencies from public scrutiny.*
5. *Do not apply penalties for unauthorised disclosure to society at large, only those responsible for keeping secrets.*
6. *Do not criminalise whistleblowers and journalists: the Bill must protect those who release classified information if that information is in the public interest; and*
7. *An independent body appointed by Parliament, and not the minister of state security, should be able to review decisions about what may be made secret.*

The Ad Hoc Portfolio Committee on the Protection of Information Bill's extended deadline is to 23 September, but, so far, none

**We'll move, unfortunately, to the next step, which would be a potential legal challenge to the bill. And we're not the only ones who've said that. Cosatu has made it quite clear they're considering that as well.**

of these demands has been fully met in any of the several drafts through which the bill has gone. Right2Know continues to apply public pressure, and on Monday published a detailed explanation of [why the “secrecy bill” still fails the freedom test](#).

National Right2Know co-ordinator Murray Hunter sent iMaverick an update on the proceedings in Parliament on Tuesday evening, stating that the issue of a public-interest defence hadn't been discussed, but that the ANC has dug its heels in on the bill trumping the Promotion of Access to Information Act, as well as the fact that “state security matter” will still have a broad definition. Hunter is not expecting much to change. “I don't see a radical climb down on the matter,” he said.

Right2Know has always been clear on what the next step will be if the Protection of Information Bill in its current form becomes law. “We'll move, unfortunately, to the next step, which would be a potential legal challenge

to the bill,” said McKinley. “And we're not the only ones who've said that. Cosatu has made it quite clear it's considering that as well. That's not the only option we'll have, just the most immediate option to test its constitutionality.”

But, while the potential passage of the bill is its current rallying point, Right2Know is decidedly not a one-issue campaign. “The right to know is broader than just one piece of legislation,” says McKinley. “There are serious problems across the country, irrespective of the legislation – the practice of people getting hold of information they need is being stymied.” With this in mind, whatever happens with the bill, Right2Know will continue to push the agenda and work towards creating a much more open society. “Fundamentally this campaign is about democracy, accountability, and transparency in the public sector, but also the private sector and Paia applies there as well,” McKinley says. “There would be plenty of work to do.”

And Right2Know has positioned itself well to continue this work. In its year-long history, more than 400 NGOs and 20,000 individuals have endorsed the campaign. One the biggest

achievements so far has been the manner in which it's brought together organisations and people from across society. Right2Know supporters transcend class, race and ideological boundaries to rally around an issue; it's decidedly not an organisation restricted to the chattering classes. “We started having a whole range of activities within communities – so taking it down, instead of just having a central meeting somewhere in urban areas,” says McKinley. “(We're) beginning to explain Paia and the secrecy bill and its relevance. We heard testimonies from communities about how the lack of information affected their lives, around service delivery and accountability... and we integrated those into the campaign. Our critique of the secrecy bill and the lack of information begin to relate to the real day-to-day struggles of people.”

In the spirit of engagement, it's not only communities that Right2Know has been working with, but it has approached the government too. “We've done quite a bit in engaging official structures – public and government officials,” says McKinley. “It's not simply a matter of just criticism, and saying 'we

**"We've done quite a bit in engaging official structures – public and government officials. It's not simply a matter of just criticism, and saying 'we want this, we, want that'; it's about trying to create avenues for engagement."**


want this, we, want that'. It's about trying to create avenues for engagement.”

Hunter is effusive on the manner in which usually disparate social groups have begun working with each other on the campaign. “When I see the momentum that's been created around the Protection of Information Bill, I want to find minister Cwele (Siyabonga Cwele, the minister of state security), and give him a big kiss on the cheek, because he's united us. The way that ratepayers in Constantia sit at the same table with unionists (and) radical anti-state people... we're rallying together. It's magical. The bill is a symptom of the much bigger struggle to access information, to share information, that cuts to the ideal of an open democracy.

“A lot of people are asking now: 'Are you going to win on this bill? Are you winning or are you losing?', and the overwhelmingly positive message that's coming out is we've already won in some ways,” Hunter continues. “Maybe it goes to the Constitutional Court, but in a broader sense, civil society has already won. South Africans are rallying around open democracy. I feel that there's a moment here.”

But Hunter isn't stuck in the moment. With the committee's deadline fast approaching, there's no time to pause. Although the deadline is officially on 23 September, he says: “[W]e're suddenly mindful of the fact that they might be pushing to take it to the national assembly before 15 September. I do think this is going to happen before Parliament rises on the sixteenth.” Right2Know had been planning a march in Cape Town on 22 September, but this will probably be brought forward. “Sometime in September,” is all Hunter is able to commit to right now.

**"When I see the momentum that's been created around the Protection of Information bill, I want to find Minister Cwele (Siyabonga Cwele, the Minister of State Security), and give him a big kiss on the cheek, because he's united us. The way that ratepayers in Constantia sit at the same table as unionists (and) radical anti-state people... we're rallying around together – it's magical."**

Reflecting on Right2Know's “birthday”, McKinley says: “It's good that we've been around for a year, but I don't think we're thinking so much about that. All eyes are on the bill because that's going to be our big fight. We've been able to mobilise quite a few opinions and squarely put this on the national agenda. We've achieved a lot, but there's a hell of a lot more that needs to be done, depending on the outcome of the bill. We'll hopefully be up to the task.” 

#### READ MORE:

1. Right2Know [website](#)



## YOUTH WAGE SUBSIDY: A RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

The debate over labour legislation and unemployment is frequently racialised in South Africa. PAUL BERKOWITZ makes another attempt at arguing for labour market deregulation.

In a [recent article](#) I wrote I made the argument for greater labour market deregulation, particularly for young, first-time job seekers. Response to the article was mixed: most of the respondents supported my argument, with a few notable dissenters, namely Nhlanhla Nxumalo and Bonginkosi Mthembu. I dedicate this article to them, because the points they raise deserve a full hearing.

The points they raise include the following: job creation and retention is a function of good management, not good labour laws; the process of dismissal is not onerous; the racial composition of the South African economy is

an important factor in who is hired and fired; and there are other factors, such as centralised bargaining, which are as limiting to job creation, if not more so.

I'll attempt to tackle each of their points, with a mix of theory and personal experience. I'm aware that 'the plural of anecdote is not data' and I apologise in advance to those who were expecting a rigorous theoretical defence of labour market economics. I'll also try and do more than pay lip service to the human beings behind the units of labour, while also not

Photo: REUTERS

shying away from the realities of markets.

On the subject of management, in an ideal world every manager would be supportive, visionary, and empowering. The transfer of skills would flow smoothly and worker productivity would be maximised. In my life I have had good managers and bad managers. In my first job as a waiter I was frequently insulted and once physically assaulted by the boss. Skills were often transferred through a raised voice. When I eventually left that job, however, it was with more skills than when I entered. Some of those skills were learned from my colleagues, not from my boss, but there is no doubt in my mind that I benefitted from having that job.

Bad management can destroy morale and lower productivity, without a doubt. But, as other comments pointed out, bad management can also be shielded by the law, not just bad subordinates.

Is dismissing a non-performing employee difficult? I offer anecdotal evidence from different perspectives. A relative of mine used to manage a large restaurant. He told me that, in a bad month, he could spend up to 25% of his time locked in labour disputes with employees fighting dismissal or disciplinary action. In many of these cases, in his opinion, the employee was in the wrong and could eventually be dismissed – but only at a cost greater than retention of the employee. The employee and his legal representative knew this, and knew that my relative knew this. The practical upshot of this was that employees were kept on the books who were frequently late for work (and in some cases didn't bother to show up for their shifts) because it was cheaper than firing them.

**Bad management can destroy morale and lower productivity, without a doubt. But, as other comments pointed out, bad management can also be shielded by the law, not just bad subordinates.**

I also have my own story, told from the other side of the equation. In 2007 I began work at a large, JSE-listed company. It quickly became clear to both me and my boss that I was unsuited for the job. I was not a corporate animal and I was miserable in that environment. I was called in by the boss's boss and asked to start applying for jobs elsewhere. I did find another job, but it took a few months. In that time I am certain that I was a liability to my employers and that remains the biggest blot on my employment copybook.

In that particular case the labour laws and internal procedures worked in my favour. I was told that it would be costly to proceed with a disciplinary hearing. I therefore did not have unemployment thrust upon me, but my employers bore the cost of keeping me on the books for those extra months.

This brings me to the issue of race and racial politicking in the economy. I cannot hope to cover this sufficiently here but there are a few important points to be made. Firstly, unproductive employees are certainly not stratified by race (I offer myself as an example).

Secondly, management is increasingly black in South Africa, and the black managers I have spoken to have just as many horror stories about staff from hell as their white counterparts. People are people, as the great philosophers Dave Gahan and Martin Gore once said, and their behaviour and work ethic can be predicted by their circumstance and the incentives available to them, not by their skin colour.


Fortunately or unfortunately, people also predictably hire people that they can most relate to, and often they feel that they can relate to people who look like them. Race is the big elephant in the room, no doubt about it. I don't have an easy answer to this because there isn't one. However, we should not conflate our structural problems of race relations, which will take time to dismantle, with the structural problems we have created in respect of job creation. We can do more about the latter, much more quickly, than we can about the former. Making it easier to find work is also not synonymous with denying workers their rights, and many comments acknowledged the need to find a happy medium.

I acknowledge the historical backdrop to labour-management tensions in South Africa and I can attest to the fact that black graduates still find it harder to find jobs than their white counterparts. Official unemployment figures for white South Africans have been below 7% for over a decade, and below 5% for most of this time. The answer to the problem doesn't lie in making it harder to fire existing workers but in making it easier to hire new workers.

This brings me to the final and most important point raised: that of the other problems faced by potential employers. Here I

am completely in agreement with Mr Mthembu. Collective bargaining, and all the challenges that small businesses face in general, probably do more damage to job creation than labour market legislation. Let me just clarify, for now, that criticism of one area of policy shouldn't be interpreted as ignoring the other areas. I thank Mr Mthembu for raising the topic and I ask for his patience in allowing me to respond adequately in a future column.

In conclusion, there is our idealised imagined view of the labour market and there is the reality. The reality is that it's a messy world. People enter jobs for the wrong reason. Some people find their work environments disempowering and a hardship. Jobs are sometimes destroyed through bad management or through external forces that nobody can foresee or control. When jobs are lost workers are dismissed, there are human casualties.

It is a hard truth that nobody is guaranteed a job. What we should be doing is maximising the opportunity of every citizen to compete for a job, to give them every chance of finding gainful employment or of creating their own business. An entry-level job is sometimes unpleasant and mostly low-paying, but very seldom is it a life sentence. The alternative is unemployment, with all of its devastating psychological and social harms. There's also enough evidence to suggest that unemployment can lead to a permanent state of discouragement and disengagement from the labour market. What will we bequeath our young people? 

#### READ MORE:

1. 'Jobs, jobs, jobs? Then denationalise the unemployed', [Free Market Foundation](#)

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## WOMEN'S MARCH LECTURE AND DIALOGUE, INAUGURAL EDITION

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ANC chairperson Baleka Mbete was the keynote speaker at the first Women's March Lecture and Dialogue held in Newtown on Tuesday evening. But it was octogenarian author Laretta Ngcobo who stole the show with her reminiscences of 1956 – and some firm suggestions about disciplining the youth. By THERESA MALLINSON.

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“The women's march of 1956 is not over yet,” Mbete reminded the audience at Museum Africa. “We need to organise ourselves for a long march to socio-economic freedom.” (One was tempted to ask if she'd had to march to the venue herself, after arriving an hour late with

no explanation, but this writer had to leave before question time.) And she suggested that one way of honouring and continuing the spirit of the march would be to commission young

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Photo: Baleka Mbete (REUTERS)

female South African writers to write about the women who took part in the march in 1956 – not only about their politics, but about their everyday lived experiences.

One of the discussants, author Laretta Ngcobo, was there at the Union Buildings in 1956. “I will only express great joy, great happiness standing here before you today, because I was one of those women who went up the hill,” she said. “I was in politics but coming up the hill, did not, in fact, for me, open the pathway to the future. I didn't know this is where we would end up. I didn't know that I'd be here on a night like this with you all young people. There were no promises when we joined the others and followed up the hill.”

Ngcobo went into exile in 1963, returning in 1994. “When we left we had no hope, we had no knowledge – there was nothing ahead of us telling us we would come back again or telling us at the end of the young journey we would be rewarded,” she said. “Today I meet a lot of young people who want to be rewarded, and secretly, silently, I ask: for what?”

While Ngcobo had earlier directed the audience not to pay attention to the protesters outside Luthuli house on Tuesday, it was clearly much on her mind. “I want you to know that you are following countless other women before you, and you are followed by countless others, young people – the same people that are roaming and jumping in our streets,” she said. “They need you as mothers, as sisters, as political directors. Carve the pathway.” She urged the gathered women to be “firm and hard in our mothering, in the love we give them” and stated quite firmly herself: “Our children must learn you achieve before you play games.”

**"I was one of those women who went up the hill. I was in politics but coming up the hill, did not, in fact, for me, open the pathway to the future. I didn't know this is where we would end up."**

The call for women to be “political directors” picked up on a theme touched on earlier in Mbete's speech. She spoke of how youth had helped found the ANC, specifically referencing Pixley ka Seme (who was only 31 in 1912), and also spoke of their contribution in the Black Consciousness movement (Steve Biko was only 31 when he died in detention). In her position as ANC chairperson, it was probably wise of Mbete not to speak too directly. But of today's youth, she asked: “Where are they taking democracy to? Where are they taking the gains of leadership to?” And then she pointedly questioned the lack of female leadership in youth organisations.

Mbete also trotted out the well-worn statistic about South Africa being the third-most representative government in the world in


**The very presence of women in certain strategic position is an inspiration to other people, especially youngsters. It's a small difference, but it's a difference nonetheless.**

terms of [female representation](#) (although, these days, we're actually fourth). But she added: “The extent to which these women make a difference to other women is really the issue. The very presence of women in certain strategic position is an inspiration to other people, especially youngsters. It's a small difference, but it's a difference nonetheless.”

There's a tension here, of women not being represented or heard at the lower levels – and then catapulted into parliament to fulfil the required quota. And, if they're just there to make up the numbers, are their voices being heard and taken seriously? Women in certain strategic positions may be an inspiration, but it's that's not enough if they lack the power to make strategic decisions. Which takes us back to Mbete's earlier statement that the march still continues.

It is, at this stage, unclear what precisely the Women's March Lecture and Dialogue aims to achieve beyond being a talkshop – although that may be because this writer wasn't able to stick

around for the “dialogue” part of the equation. But a press statement issued by the Write Associates, who organised the event together with the City of Johannesburg, contains the following disturbing line about its goals. “The ultimate aim is to grow the project to become one of the most sought-after and celebrated events on an annual basis.” And? Well, there's some other stuff about “deepening and broadening achievements” and “further defending and advancing the gains we enjoy today”.

At the end of her speech, Ngcobo said: “I'm just actually doing what I never thought I would do – just being happy, just rejoicing... Those who follow are actually promising if I just live one more year, I will get see one more gathering of women such as you.” But to truly honour women like her, we need to use August not so much to host celebratory events (although they have their place), but more to get down to the nitty-gritty of strategising about how to achieve concrete, long-term gains for women in all levels of society. 

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## WORLD BANK: ZIMBABWE'S ENERGY SECTOR NEEDS \$13 BILLION

According to the World Bank, Zimbabwe's ageing energy infrastructure needed a \$13 billion investment if the country is to continue its economic recovery. Reuters reported that the bank would like to normalise relations with the country. However, lacking policy clarity and unpaid loans prevent this.

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## TWO SUSPECTS IN CUSTODY, ONE SOUGHT FOR ABUJA BOMBINGS

Reuters reported that Nigerian authorities are after an Al-Qaeda linked member of Boko Haram, the group responsible for last Friday's bombing of the UN building in Abuja. The authorities said that Mohammed Nur masterminded the attacks and appealed to the public for information that would lead to Nur's capture. Two suspects, also Boko Haram members, are in custody and, according to authorities, are providing "valuable statements".



Mohamed ElBaradei (Reuters)

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## FUND BANKS ON FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

Investors in African economies are ignoring Francophone countries to their detriment, according to the chief executive of the Advanced Finance and Investment Group. He told Reuters that the group believes that as more investors enter the African market, competition will drive the need to expand beyond Anglophone markets into countries like Mauritania, Chad and Ivory Coast, which are regrouping after recent conflict. The group's Atlantic Regional Coast Fund would look to invest in local food production, which is expected to grow to meet the demands of an expanding middle class in Africa.

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## ELBARADEI: ALLOW FOREIGN MONITORING OF ELECTIONS

Responding to Egypt's ruling military council's earlier decision to ban foreign monitoring of elections, presidential hopeful Mohamed ElBaradei said that international monitoring was necessary to affirm transparency and sovereignty, Reuters reported. ElBaradei also said that international monitoring was one of the demands of the protesters who overthrew Hosni Mubarak's government and warned that it would be erroneous not to allow this. Egypt will be announcing dates for its presidential and parliamentary elections, but the military, once considered an ally of protesters, has been exhibiting autocratic characteristics similar to Mubarak's fallen government.

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## LIBYA REJECTS OUTSIDE PEACEKEEPING FORCES

Libya's national transitional council have rejected the idea that the UN or any other foreign body may deploy a peacekeeping mission to the country, according to the BBC. The council's deputy representative to the UN called Libya a "special case" as it was not a civil war, but people defending themselves against a dictator. The situation in Libya remains tense with pro-Gaddafi fighters still resisting rebel forces, albeit in smaller numbers and through guerrilla tactics. Rebels have laid siege to Sirte, Gaddafi's hometown, but have not yet captured it. As for Gaddafi, there are a lot of guesses as to his location but no one knows for sure where he is.

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## OXFAM MUSIC ALBUM TO RAISE FUNDS FOR DRC

Oxfam has paired up international producers and musicians from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to produce a 14-track album that they hope would call attention to the ongoing crisis in the country and raise funds. Among the producers is Blur's Damon Albarn who was one of the forces behind a series of music festivals that brought together African and western artists. The album will be released later this year.



Libya says NO to foreign peacekeepers (Reuters)

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## CAMEROON ANNOUNCES ELECTION DATE

Cameroon's president Paul Biya has announced 9 October as the date it will hold presidential elections. Biya had until 4 September to announce the date. His announcement leaves presidential hopefuls with five days to file all the paperwork necessary for them to be considered as candidates. According to Africa Review, opposition parties have called for the elections to be pushed back as they would not be able to get their candidature forms in on time.

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## GUINEA AND CHINA SIGN \$5.8 BILLION DEAL

Guinea has agreed to a \$5.8 billion deal that grants China

aluminium ore mining rights in exchange for the construction of infrastructure, including a coal-fired power plant and a refinery. The deal is the latest of many between the two countries, having in the past signed similar deals for roads, ports and rail infrastructure.

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## CHEETAH CAUSES PANIC AT KENYA DISPENSARY

The Nairobi Star reported that youths in Kenya's Taita district killed a cheetah that had wandered into a health facility. Wildlife experts condemned the killing of the cheetah, saying that residents should have called Kenya Wildlife Service to dart and remove the animal.



## WADE'S SHOW GOES ON AS 'POLITICAL SHOWMEN' DISCOURAGED

If you want to run for president of Senegal, new rules dictate that you'll need have a cool R1 million cash to do so. Designed to keep the jokers out of politics, the regulation might help keep the rather more serious president in. By SIMON ALLISON.

It's not a bad idea, on the face of it. Eager to discourage political showmen from the sober business of presidential elections, the Senegalese government has sharply increased the deposit presidential candidates must pay to run for election, from R380,000 to nearly R1 million. Candidates that go on to receive 5% or more of the vote will have the money returned to them, those that don't will forfeit the deposit. "We found it necessary to discourage those (candidates) whose only aim is to show up," said Tanor Thiendella Fall, director general of elections. "We judged it good to discourage those who come mainly to do their personal political marketing."

But the new restrictions come as Senegal is becoming weary of President Abdoulaye Wade and his tightening grip on power. The main point of contention is Wade's determination to stand in next year's presidential elections. He's currently serving his second term, which constitutionally is also his last – in theory. Wade has a different interpretation, arguing that a consti-

tutional amendment in 2007 reducing the presidential term from seven years to five, reset the timer on his presidency, and he's therefore only serving his first term. Opposition figures claim Wade's plan, if re-elected, is to hand power over to his son, Karim, as the 85-year-old president is unlikely to remain sprightly enough to complete a full five years. Arguments on the validity of Wade's candidacy in the next elections are being heard by Senegal's Constitutional Council.

Deposits for presidential candidates are common practice, and they're never cheap. In Guinea, for example, contenders must stump up R750,000, while in Benin it's double that. In South Africa's 2009 elections, deposits were paid by parties as opposed to individual candidates, as ours is a parliamentary system. It cost R180,000 for a party to participate in the national election, and R40,000 for each province that the party wanted to contest. **iM**

### READ MORE:

1. Senegal hikes presidential poll fees to dissuade showmen on [Reuters Africa](#)
2. Can Senegal Succeed? on [China Daily](#)

Photo: REUTERS



## TRIBUNE D'AFRIQUE BACK ON SALE IN TOGO

A Benin-based West African magazine has been absent from Togolese shelves since last year, when a court handed down a permanent distribution ban after it published drug-trafficking allegations about the president's brother. Now it's back in circulation – but still contesting damages of \$113,000.


By THERESA MALLINSON.

On 25 August 2010, bimonthly magazine *Tribune d'Afrique* was banned from distribution in Togo, after publishing a story linking Togolese President Faure Gnassingbé's brother to drug-trafficking. “The white powder darkening presidential palaces: Drug-trafficking at the top. Togo involved. Mey Gnassingbé named”, screamed the headline. Gnassingbé sued for defamation, and the magazine was also charged with publishing false news.

The magazine was fined \$113,000, and editor Aurel Kedoté, reporter David Cudjoe Amekudzi and chief executive Marlène de la Bardonnie were fined \$3,800 each. In addition, *Tribune d'Afrique*, which is based in Benin and distributed in seven West African countries, was banned from being sold in Togo – its biggest market.

Photo: Togo's President Faure Gnassingbe (REUTERS)

Reporters Without Borders and Lawyers Without Borders have helped the magazine in fighting its legal battles. Lawyers Without Border's François Cantier said: “Togo's communication and press law provides for a maximum fine of 1 million CFA francs for defamation but the authorities fined the magazine 6 million CFA francs. It was also wrong to convict David Cudjoe Amekudzi as he neither wrote the offending article nor is he the magazine's editor or publisher. He is just its representative in Lomé and, as such, should not have been concerned by this libel case.”

But in a court hearing last week, [the ban was lifted](#), and *Tribune d'Afrique* was back on Togolese shelves on Monday. While this is good news, only part of the battle has been won. The magazine is still intending to get the damages overturned by taking the case to Togo's high appeals court. 



## WORKERS NOT COMING BACK FOR ANOTHER CUP

Long after the fighting has ended, migrant workers are still wary about returning to the cocoa fields of western Côte d'Ivoire. It's potentially very bad news for a country that is only starting to recover after a bloody civil war erupted earlier this year. By SIPHO HLONGWANE.

Farmers in Côte d'Ivoire's Duekoue and Gagnoa regions report good cocoa crop prospects for this season, but they worry that the lack of migrant workers may imperil the size of the harvest. Some of the heaviest fighting between militants loyal to Gbagbo and the Ouattara-aligned Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire took place in the west of the country, where the bulk of the cocoa is grown.

Despite what the name of Côte d'Ivoire might suggest, cocoa is its main export.

Farmers quoted by Reuters say many migrant workers who harvest the cocoa have yet to return to the region, fearing that the fighting has not yet ended. "We have a real problem maintaining our plantations due to the lack of labour. Lots of workers have left and are still

too afraid to come back," said farmer and cooperative manager Kone Mamadou. "This lack of workers will lower production. There will also be problems with quality because we need labour to harvest the pods and ferment and dry the beans at the right time."

The industry also suffered a brief set-back when the West sanctioned cocoa exports when Côte d'Ivoire was largely under Gbagbo's control to cut off his funding after he lost an election and refused to step down.

Already 1.4 million tonnes of cocoa have been harvested. 

### READ MORE:

1. Insecurity, lack of workers may hit Ivorian cocoa in [Reuters Africa](#)
2. Ouattara's twin challenges of Côte d'Ivoire's recovery and forgiveness in [Daily Maverick](#)

Photo: REUTERS



## A GOVERNMENT'S GUIDE TO ASKING FOR MONEY – AND GETTING IT


Ethiopia's "Humanitarian Requirements" document is blunt to the point of rudeness: This is what we need, this is how much of it we need and this is how much it's going to cost. Donors, make a plan. People are starving in Ethiopia, you know. By SIMON ALLISON

So this is how long-term, institutional aid works. The Ethiopian government types up a pretty little document with a glossy cover page (starring scrawny cattle walking through arid desert plains – even the cows are hungry, apparently), a nice contents list and lots of well-organised tables. The writing is tight and to the point; no melodrama, no sob stories, just cold hard facts which tell an ever-sorrier story. This many people admitted to hospital for this disease, this many for that disease; this crop failed here, that crop failed there; this many people suffering here, and of that this many suffering thanks to avoidable "resource shortfalls", which is development-speak for "we need more cash".

Just how much is made unmistakably clear with the clever use of bold type face. "The total net emergency food and non-food requirements for the period July to December 2011 amounts to USD 398,439,730," the report reads. If you're struggling to read that long line of numbers,

that's \$400 million, or R2.4 billion. It's not made as obvious where the money is supposed to come from, but the implication is clear: the humanitarian bodies which operate in the country must stump up the funds, and probably will.

Although unsettling, matter-of-fact forward planning like this is the reality of the aid industry, and it's a big improvement on the reactive system which was used for so long. Money spent in anticipation of problems is spent much more efficiently than if it's spent after the problem has happened.

Case in point: Somalia, where a little bit of foresight would have gone a long way to alleviating the famine and making it much cheaper to address. Ethiopia, on the other hand, avoided a famine this time, despite enduring the same drought, and it's thanks to the precautions and plans – like this one – which the government and humanitarian agencies put together 

### READ MORE:

1. Ethiopia's Humanitarian Requirements 2011: Joint government and humanitarian partners [document](#)

Photo: REUTERS



## ICC SLAPS DOWN KENYAN APPEAL

Kenya's last-ditch attempt to avoid the international embarrassment of having some of its top politicians tried at the International Criminal Court has failed miserably, with the presiding judge not only dismissing the appeal, but also delivering a resounding vote of no-confidence in the Kenyan government's ability to deal with its own problems. By SIMON ALLISON.

They're known as the "Ocampo Six", the men charged by the International Criminal Court in The Hague with crimes against humanity for their alleged roles in the post-election violence which left 3,100 dead, half a million homeless and Kenya's budding democracy in tatters. The violence came as incumbent President Mwai Kibaki, of the ironically named Party of National Unity, was declared winner of 2007's decidedly dodgy elections. The Orange Democratic Movement of his main rival, Raila

Odinga, wasn't happy, and this tension sparked the short but nasty conflict, resolved only after international mediation and the establishment of a national unity government, with Kibaki as President and Odinga as Prime Minister.

An investigation led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan pinned the blame on six top political figures, and those names were passed to ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-

Photo: Uhura Kenyatta at ICC, April 2011. REUTERS

Ocampo in a secret envelope. Ocampo duly laid charges and hence the nickname. The six are split neatly between the two parties. For the Kibaki's PNU, there's a former police chief, the head of the civil service, and Uhuru Kenyatta, finance minister and prodigal son of Kenya's founding father, Jomo. For the Odinga's ODM, there's a former minister, a prominent radio broadcaster and only-just-former education minister William Ruto.

For many years Ruto was Odinga's top lieutenant, but recently fell out with the PM and was quickly shuffled out of the cabinet. Both Ruto and Kenyatta are said to harbour presidential ambitions – both are thought likely to run in the 2012 presidential elections.


It's not easy to run for president from a Dutch prison cell, but not impossible. Jean-Pierre Bemba, the Congolese warlord on trial at the ICC for alleged atrocities committed in the Central African Republic, is a presidential candidate in next month's election in the Democratic Republic of Congo, though apparently he's finding campaigning a little tricky.

Nonetheless, the Ruto and Kenyatta, along with their co-accused, would rather avoid the ignominy of an international trial, as would the Kenyan government, which is composed exclusively of the two parties responsible for the violence in the first place. Their government of national unity has been characterised by more bickering and in-fighting than actual governing, but it seems there's agreement all round that it would be much nicer if the ICC would let Kenya sort out its own problems, in its own way.

So that's exactly what they told the ICC. The government requested that the court halt proceedings, as it was commencing its own

investigations. But the ICC was having none of it, reaffirming an earlier ruling that for it to drop its own prosecution, the Kenyan government must have instituted proceedings against the same people for the same offence, and that no such proceedings have been forthcoming – despite Kenya having had three years in which to get them started. As the initial ruling concluded: "... the available evidence and arguments show that there is no concrete action demonstrating that investigations are in progress."

The introductory stages of the pre-trial are due to begin on Thursday. This will determine whether there's enough evidence to launch a full trial. Joshua arap Sang, the accused radio broadcaster, is confident it won't get that far. "I do not care because if they get my evidence, definitely there is no way they are going to confirm this case. And if they do, it is okay, because it will be a great day for us to take our witnesses and embarrass Luis Moreno Ocampo and the ICC."

But Ocampo's not easily embarrassed, and the much-maligned ICC is used to criticism. And people with their ears to the ground in Kenya claim that Kenyans overwhelmingly want them to oversee the proceedings rather than any easily-manipulated local court. It looks like the Ocampo Six will have to face international justice, and they might just find it tougher than the kind of justice to which they're accustomed in Kenya. 

#### READ MORE:

1. ICC dismisses Kenya's appeal on admissibility in [Kenya's the Standard](#)
2. Kenyan leaders face war crimes court hearings on [Kenya's Capital FM News](#)

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Libyans attend Eid al-Fitr prayers at Tahreer Square, about 40 km (25 miles) west of Tripoli August 31, 2011. REUTERS

## CHINA

A Chinese ship has confronted an Indian navy vessel in the South China Sea. It's the first reported naval encounter between the two countries, and evidence of China's growing boldness on the high seas. China claims the entire of the South China Sea, laughing off possession claims from its neighbouring nations.

## LIBYA

Libyan rebels don't want any intervention. The UN has suggested deploying peacekeepers or military observers

to the country, but the chairman of the National Transitional Council said the country doesn't need external assistance to maintain security. Meanwhile, Gaddafi has rejected the rebels' ultimatum to surrender, saying: "no dignified honourable nation would accept an ultimatum from armed gangs". Ah yes, "dignity" and "honour", the two watchwords of the Gaddafi regime.

## SYRIA

News from Syria gets ever more bleak. Now Amnesty International has said it believes at least 88 people have died in de-

tention in Syrian jails over the past five months, all detained after taking part in anti-government protests. It says they were also subjected to torture before they died, and that the fatalities include ten children. On Wednesday morning, pro-government troops were raiding houses in Hama looking for activists, so things are likely to get worse before they get better.

## USA

An independent panel appointed to assess the costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has concluded that as much as



Julian Assange (Reuters)

\$60 billion has been lost due to waste and fraud. The Commission on Wartime Contracting, styled after the Truman Committee set up to examine WWII spending, made 15 recommendations to ensure there's no repetition of the same mistakes in future. These include the appointment of inspectors to monitor contracting and planning – which you'd think they would already have thought of, but apparently not. The spending on contracts and grants to support U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan is expected to exceed \$206 billion by the end of 2011. That's money they could have spent on, say, some kind of national health insurance.

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## USA

General David Petraeus, who is America's most powerful military officer, is stepping down from the armed forces to take on the job of CIA director. Petraeus is credited with saving

the war in Iraq from being a total catastrophe, but he has since clashed with Obama over military strategy in Afghanistan. He took over in Afghanistan in July 2010 to replace Stanley McChrystal, who had to fall on his sword after making career-ending comments about administration officials to a Rolling Stone journalist.

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## USA

Oil has risen to almost \$89 a barrel because of the expectation that supplies will be tighter in the post-Hurricane Irene era. The demand for petrol rose in the US for the first time in over a month due to motorists panic-buying oil along the East Coast in advance of the hurricane.

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## JAPAN

Traditional competitors Sony, Toshiba and Hitachi are to merge their LCD businesses to

create a mega-business called Japan Display K.K. next year. The government will own 70% of the venture, with the three electronics companies splitting the rest. It's a move that should create the world's biggest maker of LCDs for cellphones and cameras, and it comes because Japanese countries are battling to compete with Korea's Samsung and Taiwan's Chimei In-nolux Corp.

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## USA

When hackers get hacked: the Wikileaks website was brought down on Tuesday night by an apparent attack. It's unclear who is responsible for the damage, but there were reports that it may have been linked to the release of US diplomatic cables without redacting any of the names, a move which drew strong criticism from human rights groups and diplomats alike, all fearing for the safety of confidential sources now being named.

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**ISRAEL**

Israel has stepped up training for security teams in the West Bank, which sounds like trouble. They're anticipating Palestinian protests and upheaval accompanying Palestine's bid for UN recognition in September. Part of their measures include drawing boundaries around settlements that protestors won't be allowed to cross, but they've refused to give any more details about what the rules of engagement might be.

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**USA**

Despite the anticlimax of Hurricane Irene's arrival in New York, analysts now say the storm is likely to prove one of the top ten costliest catastrophes in US history. They're now putting the bill at \$7 -10 billion, but that isn't the real problem. The issue is that unlike previous hurricanes, insurers will probably only end up covering less than 40% of the damage, because most of it was caused by floods as opposed to winds – and not that many homes have flood insurance.

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**SA**

Ex-US VP Dick Cheney – who's on the publicity trail at the moment trying to pump up interest in his, by all accounts, virtually unreadable memoir



Dick Cheney (Reuters)

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– has hit a new low. In an interview with NBC on Tuesday, he issued a defence of the torture tactic of waterboarding. Cheney doesn't think waterboarding is torture, and says the US government has obligations to protect its citizens. He did admit that he wouldn't like Americans to be waterboarded though.

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**CHINA**

China is buying more copper. As a result of China's new appetite for the metal, copper has climbed to its highest level in three weeks. Suggestion: maybe the Gauthrain could ask China for a copper donation to replace all those cables?

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**LIBYAN**

The rebels are squabbling over who has authority over the Libyan Investment Authority,

which is to say its \$65 billion sovereign wealth fund. You can see why it would be popular. It consists of about \$150 billion of sovereign assets, once controlled by Gaddafi, and 144 tons of gold. Countries like France, which holds 7.6 billion euros of it, have asked the UN sanctions committee for permission to release the dosh.

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**JAPAN**

China is wary of Japan's new PM. Yoshihiko Noda has been given a pasting in the Chinese press, with pundits accusing him of being pro-US in a way that could damage Chinese interests. Noda is a strong supporter of the US-Japan defence alliance. He also has said that China's nationalism and naval activities pose a risk to regional stability. American analysts have said that Noda is moderate, fair and experienced, which is good news for them.



## US BRACES FOR 9/11 ANNIVERSARY

On 11 September 2001 planes destroyed the World Trade Centre, a chunk of the Pentagon and the myth of American invincibility. Ten years on, the US is preparing for the anniversary of 9/11 in a mood of mixed caution and commemoration. By REBECCA DAVIS.

The New York Times reported this week the White House had released detailed guidelines to government officials on the protocol to be followed to appropriately mark the tenth anniversary. They want to honour the memory of those who died in the attack, remind people that terror is still a threat and engage in some muted backslapping that they've succeeded in preventing a similar disaster in America since then.

AP notes security is being stepped up around the country, even though there is no specific intelligence that any terror threat is planned. Their fear is that the date is the perfect opportunity for a group of al-Qaeda sympathisers to make a statement. Obama's own concern is that a "lone-wolf terrorist" - think Norway's Anders Breivik - may attempt some kind of attack.

Photo: REUTERS

The national mood around the date seems to be uneasy. The anniversary takes place in a month that has seen the release of a study that shows one in seven people in the UK and America believe the US government was involved in a 9/11 conspiracy. In the build-up, tensions in and around the Muslim community have also been growing with the revelation last week that the NYPD has been targeting Muslim neighbourhoods for extra surveillance. Just yesterday the NY Daily News reported that an amusement park in New York had to be shut down after a fight erupted between police and Muslim visitors who were told that the wearing of headscarves was banned on certain rides. In this atmosphere, government will be taking no chances on anything going wrong. 

### READ MORE:

1. White House Issues Guides on Sept. 11 Observances, in [The New York Times](#)



## HOW THE WORLD SAW THE ANCYL RIOTS


Tuesday's protests outside Luthuli House hogged the spotlight of our domestic media. But the eyes of the international media were also on South Africa. By REBECCA DAVIS.

The Guardian highlighted the methods used by South African riot police to disperse crowds, mentioning water cannons and stun grenades twice in a short piece. This is no doubt as a result of the lengthy handwringing that took place in the UK over what measures the English police were entitled to use to break up London rioters. They called Malema a "charismatic and populist, but consistently controversial figure". Their potted history of Malema's career noted the "bloody agent" incident, his claim that Zuma's rape accuser had "a nice time" and his argument that whites should be treated as criminals for stealing land. Not the most glowing depiction then.

In The New York Times "Mr. Malema" was termed a "firebrand leader", and they suggested the dispute between Zuma and Malema "reaches deep into South Africa's post-apartheid society". Malema, they said, had "caught the imagina-

tion of the country's disaffected youth". They too cited the "agent" incident, and added to Malema's dappled CV his terming of Helen Zille as a "cockroach" and his support for Mugabe.

Canada's Globe & Mail also went with Malema as "firebrand" and termed the ANC the "once-admired liberation movement of Nelson Mandela". Ouch. The Sydney Morning Herald joined the "firebrand" team and suggested that Malema was "greeted as a hero". The UK Telegraph issued probably the harshest critique, describing Juju as a "demagogue and a dangerous populist" who has "polarised South Africa by playing the race card". They also made sure their readers knew about Malema's "'bling' flamboyant lifestyle of sushi parties with bikini-clad women, fancy cars and free-flowing champagne".

One thing's clear: in the jury of international opinion, it was Zuma over Malema by a pinfall. 

### READ MORE:

1. South Africa police clash with supporters of ANC's Julius Malema, in [The Guardian](#)

Photo: REUTERS



## US SAYS SORRY TO GUATEMALA FOR 1940s MEDICAL TRIALS

Seventy years after the fact, Guatemala has finally received an apology from the US for shockingly unethical medical trials carried out there in the 1940s. But the incident is just one in a long list of corrupt scientific testing undertaken at the expense of the developing world. By REBECCA DAVIS.


Between 1946 and 1948, the US Public Health Service deliberately infected more than 1,300 Guatemalans with syphilis and gonorrhoea, without telling the subjects. The research, which aimed to test the efficacy of penicillin in preventing infection, was paid for by the US government. Some of the details which have now emerged are nauseating – such as a female syphilis patient who was injected with gonorrhoea in her eyes, later dying.

But unethical scientific research carried out on the developing world is nothing new. In many ways the citizens of the global south have paid the price, sometimes with their lives, for the medical advances from which the world, but specifically the rich world now benefits.

The contraceptive Depo-Provera, for instance, was clinically tested on Zimbabwean women in the 1970s as part of a population control scheme.

Photo: REUTERS

Sterilisation experiments were conducted on Herero women in South West Africa in the 1930s, for similar reasons. More recently, in 1996 Pfizer tested its anti-meningitis drug, Trovan, on Nigerian children during a meningitis outbreak. As a result of problems with the drug, by the end of the trial 200 children had been disabled and 11 were dead.

South Africa has its own murky past in this regard. Other than the germ warfare waged by Wouter Basson, let's not forget the attempts by Aubrey Levin to “cure” homosexuality within the apartheid-era military via chemical castration and electric shock treatment. Aubrey Levin fled to Canada in 1995, but last year had his medical license revoked - for making non-consensual sexual advances to a male patient. 

### READ MORE:

1. Shocking new details of US STD experiments in Guatemala, in [The Guardian](#)

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## KEYSTONE XL OIL PIPELINE: A TOUGH DECISION FOR OBAMA

Greenies have been camped outside the White House since 20 August in an effort to convince Barack Obama to nix plans for an oil pipeline running from Alberta to the Gulf of Mexico. And they say the president will lose their support if he doesn't say no to the project. By THERESA MALLINSON.

Since Saturday 20 August, the Tar Sands Action campaign has been protesting outside the White House in Washington DC. The "sit-in" will continue until 3 September. The organisation's aim? To pressure US President Barack Obama into denying a permit for the Keystone XL pipeline – a project which seeks to transport crude oil from the tar sands in Alberta, Canada

to US refineries in the Oklahoma, Illinois, and as far as the Gulf of Mexico.

The \$7 billion project would create the longest such pipeline outside Russia and China. Canada's National Energy Board approved its portion of the Keystone XL [back](#)

Photo: Actress Daryl Hannah protests in front of the White House in Washington against the proposed Keystone XL pipeline August 30, 2011. REUTERS

in [March 2010](#); in the US, it's taking a little longer, with activists up in arms about the environmental impact. Their online petition, "Tell President Obama: No to Keystone XL", is short but succinct: "The tar sands represent a catastrophic threat to our communities, our climate, and our planet. We urge you to demonstrate real climate leadership by rejecting the requested permit for the Keystone XL pipeline and instead focus on developing safe, clean energy".

However, on Friday, the US State Department gave the project the environmental go-ahead, with pipeline developer TransCanada having agreed to take measures to reduce the risks of a spill. But there are still several other processes that must be completed before it gets the final green light, including approval by other agencies and public hearings.

And, ultimately, Obama has the power to call the whole thing off – or not. His decision will be less an environmental one than a political one. He'll need to balance the part Keystone XL could pay in creating employment (potentially as many as 20,000 jobs), and meeting the energy needs of the US (friendly neighbour Canada is already its largest supplier of oil); against an environmental outcry, and what the loss of the environmentalists' support will mean for his 2012 election campaign.

Writing in the Huffington Post about why he'll be supporting the Tar Sands Action protest, [Robert Naiman](#) says: "The final determination on the permit will be based whether approval would be in the 'national interest' of the United States. This is an inherently political determination. By denying the permit for the pipeline, President Obama

**The tar sands represent a catastrophic threat to our communities, our climate, and our planet. We urge you to demonstrate real climate leadership by rejecting the requested permit for the Keystone XL pipeline and instead focus on developing safe, clean energy.**

can take a concrete action against climate chaos without securing one Republican vote, without spending one tax dollar, without getting approval from the Tea Party".

On Tuesday morning, Obama's press secretary, Jake Carney, was questioned by reporters about the protest outside the White House. [The transcript reads:](#)

**Reporters:** Also, anything on these protests outside the White House on this pipeline? Has the President decided against TransCanada's permit for the pipeline? It's the tar sands pipeline. There have been a lot of arrests outside the White House about it.

**Carney:** I don't have anything new on that. I believe the State Department has – that's under the purview of the State Department presently, but I don't have anything new on that.

## It would be pretty strange if Obama hadn't noticed a campaign that's seen 595 people, including actress Daryl Hannah and Nasa scientist James Hansen, arrested so far – and is right outside his front lawn.

**Reporters:** Is the President aware of the protests?


**Carney:** I haven't talked to him about it.

Environmentalist and author Bill McKibben, who is leading the Tar Sands Action campaign, was not amused. “Just in the last two days everyone from the president's chief climate scientist to an 84-year-old grandmother was arrested on his front doorstep,” he said. “This is the largest civil-disobedience action in the environmental movement in a generation, and if they really aren't even discussing it with the president, that signals a deep disrespect for their supporters, especially young people who have demonstrated that the environment is a top priority.”

It would be pretty strange if Obama hadn't noticed a campaign that's seen 595 people, including actress Daryl Hannah and Nasa scientist James Hansen, arrested so far – and is right outside his front lawn. And he'd better get an official briefing on it soon, because it's turning into a hot topic. Although it's a complex issue, the greenies' equations is simple: if the president chooses to go ahead with the project, then they won't love him any more. “If he doesn't cancel the project, he will have lost our support,” McKibben told The Daily Beast.

That support is not insignificant. As [The Daily Beast points out](#): “In 2008, green groups like to note, they helped Obama raise a substantial amount of his \$500 million campaign windfall. And virtually all of the major groups endorsed him over Hillary Clinton”.

The votes for Ralph Nader (running under the Green Party banner) in 2000, would've been enough to secure the presidency for Al Gore if they'd gone to him instead. This point will no doubt be in Obama's mind as he weighs up the pros and cons of the Keystone XL project. But in April [he said at a town hall meeting in Pennsylvania](#): “I will make this general point... importing oil from countries that are stable and friendly is a good thing”.

And the fact of the matter is if the US pulls out of the project, it's not like the tar sands oil will stay untapped – it'll probably find its way China, leaving the US to meet a larger portion of its energy requirements by dealing with far less tame regimes than Canada. Now how is that a good thing? 

### READ MORE:

1. US State Department to allow Canadian pipeline, [The New York Times](#)
2. Watch more: Daryl Hannah arrested in White House protest, on [YouTube](#)

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# BUSINESS



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## SOUTH AFRICA

The JSE All Share Index had another good day on Wednesday, closing 2.1% up to end at 31,005. Famous Brands, the FMCG producer, gained 7.7% with Stellenbosch-based bank, Capitec, gaining 6.2%.

Distribution and Warehousing fell another 12% with equipment importer Eqstar Holdings shedding 6.3%. Of the top 40 stocks, African Rainbow Minerals gained 5.3% with steel producer ArcelorMittal gaining 5.17%.

South African Treasury bonds had a stellar August, pushing yields to two-year lows. The 13.5% notes, due in 2015, gained 2.4% this month driving the yield down to 6.52%, its best levels since December 2008.

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## EMERGING MARKETS

Markets rose across the board, driving the benchmark MSCI Emerging Markets Index up by 1.8%, reducing the overall August decline to 9.3%. The index has gained 6% in the last four trading days.

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## UK

The FTSE index followed global markets higher, closing up 2.4% to finish the day at 5,395.



Oil rigs in the North Sea (Reuters)

The FTSE has shed 7% in August, the worst month since the collapse of Lehman Brothers and the recent rally would be a welcome relief for investors. Hargreaves Lansdown PLC, the investment manager, rose 6.1% with commodity trading Glencore International gaining 5.5%. Vodafone led the laggards with a loss of 0.9%.

BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto rose more than 3% as the metal prices boosted the earnings outlook for the world's largest miners.

Russian Special Forces operatives raided the offices of BP in Moscow, further straining the relations between the oil producer and government. The raid comes one day after its failed attempt to salvage an oil exploration agreement to

develop oil fields in the Russian Arctic.

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## US

The Oil price fell, as it headed for its biggest monthly drop since May. Growing inventories and dwindling demand reduced gains that occurred on the back of the further rumoured US economic stimulus packages. Brent crude traded at \$87.67 in early New York activity.

Sony unveiled its version of the media tablet, with price tags that could hurt its chances for the lucrative number two spot in the market, behind Apple's iPad. The entry-level model has been priced at \$499, the same as the iPad, a price no other tablet has been able to achieve. HP spectacu-



US companies added 91,000 workers in August, (Reuters)

larly cut its tablet price to \$99 in order to move stock stuck on retail shelves.

AT&T's \$39 billion takeover attempt of T-Mobile prompted the government to block the merger, saying that it would "substantially lessen competition". AT&T fell as much as 5% on the news.

S&P, the ratings agency and business headline production machine, is poised to provide AAA ratings to loans backed by subprime mortgages. S&P will stamp 59% of the Springleaf Mortgage Loan Trust with its highest credit rating, while it

continues to rate the US Treasury bonds one rating lower. The Springleaf Trust has \$500 million of loans to homeowners with below-average credit scores and almost no equity in their homes.

In August, US companies added a further 91,000 workers to payroll figures released on Wednesday. Expectations were that 100,000 workers would be added in the ADP Employer Services report.

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## EUROPE

German unemployment fell for the 26th straight month as

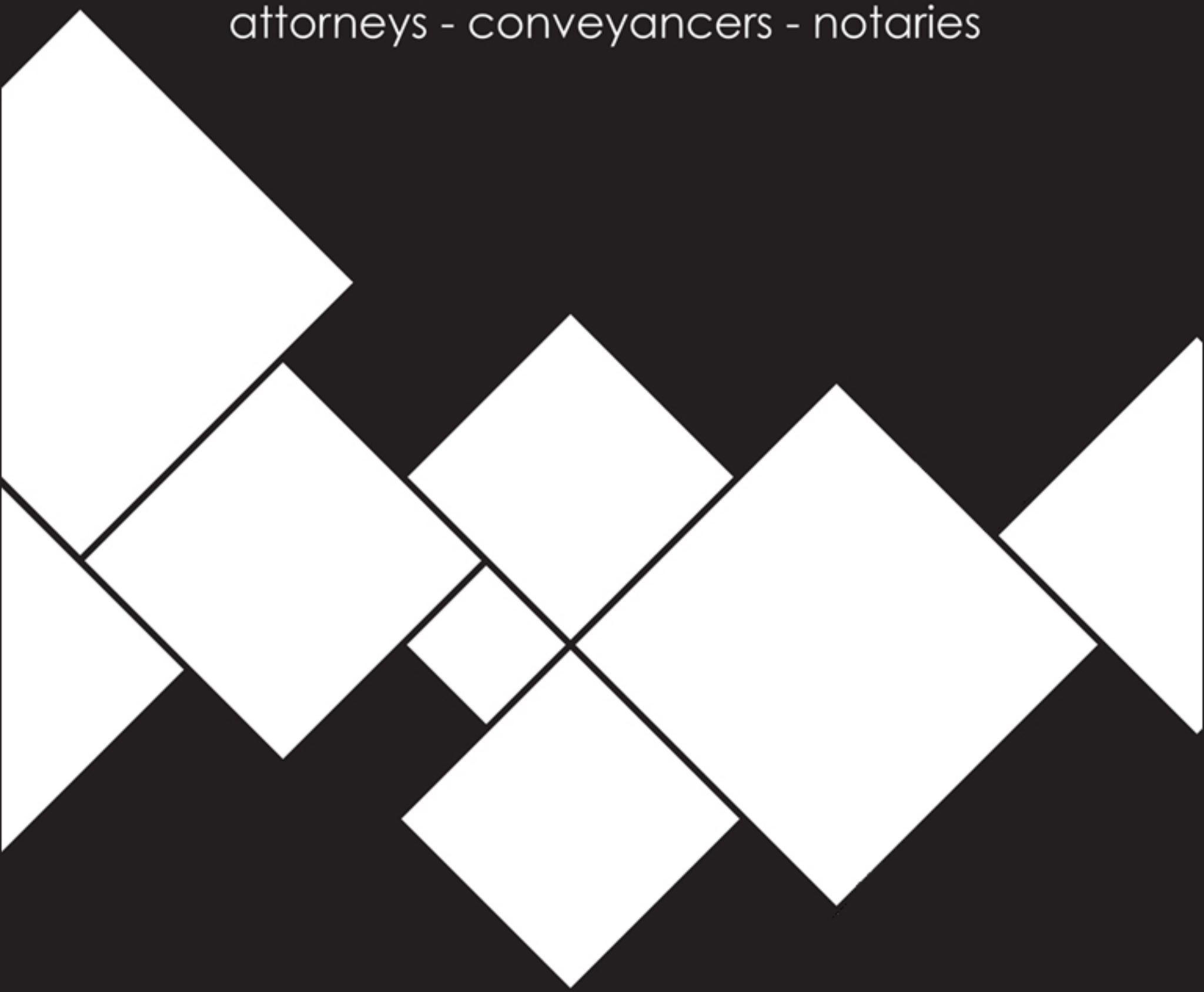
hiring continued in Europe's biggest economy. The jobless rate held constant at 7%, the lowest since German reunification in 1991, while the rest of Europe struggles with rising unemployment in the face of the global financial crisis.

Denmark's financial watchdog is stepping up efforts to stop lenders from abusing loopholes by understating losses on loans made. The regulatory authority is concerned about the current flexibility that allows lenders to employ rather optimistic views on potential bad loans.

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## PUTIN PUTS IT IN THE PUMPS

Everyone knows the battle-hardened Vladimir Putin, he of the improbably large abs, is Russia's true patriarch, and he'd return to his rightful place after letting Dmitry Medvedev have his stint in power. The \$500 billion oil deal he just secured for Russia is Putin flexing those abs once again.

By SIPHO HLONGWANE.

Russia's state-owned oil company Rosneft signed a \$500 billion deal with Exxon Mobil to develop offshore fields in the Russian Arctic circle. The deal is for an unspecified number of years. Russia's deputy prime minister (and top official in all things oil) Igor Sechin signed the deal with Exxon's CEO Rex Tillerson on 30 August, while Prime Minister Vladimir Putin looked on approvingly.

Both companies said the exploration for undeveloped gas and oil fields in the Kara Sea would cost about \$3.2 billion. The \$500 billion figure is Putin's own estimation of what the deal is worth.

Rosneft had signed a deal with British Petroleum to develop assets in the Arctic, but that deal fell through after BP's shareholders in Russia successfully blocked it. Market analysts in

Russia believe the Medvedev-supported BP deal fell through because Putin's people encouraged the shareholders aligned to the Russian president to scupper it.

Pavel Salin, an analyst at Russia's Centre for Current Politics, said, "Putin is demonstrating he is the person in charge and if Exxon Mobil had tried to make the deal with Medvedev, nothing would have happened."

Neither Putin nor Medvedev have signalled their intentions for next year's presidential race, but Exxon Mobil is already banking on Putin making a huge comeback as president. **AVI**

### READ MORE:

1. Exxon Mobil signs Arctic oil deal with Russia in [Al Jazeera English](#)
2. Exxon deal sets stage for Putin to return to the Kremlin in [Reuters](#)

Photo: REUTERS



## MAIZE SEED MERGER THREATENS SA FOOD SAFETY

DuPont is eyeing South Africa's maize market and has plans to lay its hands on our genetic material with a merger that is being appealed at the Competition Tribunal. The proposed merger would see its subsidiary Pioneer Hi-Breed acquiring SA family-owned seed company, Pannar. But activists say this is much more than a merger, and is a move that could affect the future of SA's most important staple food and all who depend on it. By MANDY DE WAAL.

Maize is one of the most important staple foods in South Africa not only because of the volumes that South Africa produces (close on 13 million ton for the 2009/2010 season), or because this country produces most maize in the southern African region. Mealie meal is as much a part of our lives as the charred cobs available on

city street corners or the beards that define large swathes of our country. Imagine then the consequences if most of the seeds and genetic material for maize production was owned by off-shore multinational companies.

Photo: REUTERS

This is the battle being waged by a small NGO called the African Centre for Biosafety which has made South African history after it was allowed by the Competition Commission to intervene in a merger between multinational seed giant, Pioneer Hi-Breed (owned by DuPont) and Pannar.

Pioneer is eager to buy Pannar because the SA company has a large collection of white maize germplasm which would make the multinational more competitive in this region. However, this region's key seed market is controlled by three companies - Monsanto, Pioneer and Pannar. The merger between Pioneer and Pannar would see this market controlled by internationals.

"The massive problem South Africa will be left with is that we will have two multinational companies controlling the maize seed industry in a sector that has yet to be transformed. The production of South Africa's staple food will be almost entirely controlled by multinationals which is a frightening situation," says Mariam Mayet, a director at the African Centre for Biosafety.

"These multinationals are already involved in licensing and cross-licensing agreements and a merger like this will have a massive impact on the price of food and the varieties that farmers can plant. Consumers will have a reduced choice because 75% of the market is now genetically modified maize, and we believe that this move will kill off small-scale farmers," says Mayet.

The African Centre for Biosafety has been fighting tooth and nail in this matter because it believes such a merger would have a major impact on food safety in South Africa.

**Pioneer is eager to buy Pannar because the SA company has a large collection of white maize germplasm which would make the multinational more competitive in this region**

"This is a disaster waiting to happen. We have thrown all our resources behind this fight because of the critical effect it would have on this country. If we lose all that maize germplasm to a multinational it would be a mess, and would be potentially devastating for consumers, agriculture, emerging farmers and for the future of maize in South Africa," says Mayet, who adds that a merger will see hybrid and genetically modified seeds dominating the market and squeezing out urban planting and the seeding of maize on family plots and in marginalised rural areas.

The African Centre for Biosafety isn't the only civic organisation worried about this merger. The National Consumer Forum has thrown its weight behind this battle to stop offshore corporations from controlling the

## In December last year the Competition Commission outlawed the proposed merger between Pannar Seed and the US-based Pioneer Hi-Bred International saying it would lessen or prevent competition in SA's maize seed market

source of local staple foods. "The more that seeds get owned in terms of intellectual property rights, the greater the possibility that access to natural seeds could be compromised and dominated," says Paul Crankshaw.

"The main concern we have is that the cost of food is potentially higher not just because of extra agricultural inputs required like fertilizers and pesticides, but that consumers may end up without choice," says Crankshaw. "For consumers to be at the mercy of multinational corporations for the source of the crops is a very dangerous thing, irrespective of whether those crops promise greater yields. It is a question of control that could lead to a lack of choice and higher prices for those companies who believe that prices will come down for higher yield."

In December last year the Competition Commission outlawed the proposed merger between Pannar Seed and the US-based Pioneer Hi-Bred International saying it would lessen or prevent competition in SA's maize seed market, which was already characterised by concentration and collaboration.


Both companies petitioned saying the merger would see the combining of maize germplasm which would introduce new breeding technologies and greater efficiencies, but the commission found that the harm by far outweighed any benefit the merger might bring.

After the commission's ruling Pioneer and

Pannar approached the Competition Tribunal, and asked them to set aside this ruling. This appeal is scheduled to be heard mid-September, but African Centre for Biosafety will be allowed to intervene in the proceedings. This right has also been extended to BioWatch another NGO that has petitioned the merger.

Both activist organisations will give evidence on four issues of the merger:

1. The effect of the proposed merger on pricing and the availability of alternative products;
2. The effect of the merger on emerging and small scale farming as well as food security and consumer choice;
3. The barriers to entry that would result from the proposed merger; and
4. How the merger would affect the public interest by virtue of the impact on SA's maize biodiversity and germplasm.

Given poverty levels in SA and the fact that 20% of SA's population doesn't have adequate access to food, civic and consumer organisations would do well to watch what happens to this proposed merger because it would have far-reaching effects on the lives of all South Africans. 

### READ MORE:

1. Tribunal allows two NGOs to intervene in [Business Report](#)

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**UK**

Oh, England. When will they ever have a decent summer? This year's has been the worst for 18 years, the Met Office has announced, with an average temperature of 13.6 degrees Celsius. In summer. It breaks your heart. And bad news for any Brits who were hoping it might just be a late starter: the Met says September will be colder and wetter than ever. Come for a holiday, guys. Our mid-winter is loads warmer.

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**UK**

Good news for rats: they are officially off the hook for spreading the medieval Plague. A team of geneticists have identified an extinct version of the *Yersinia Pestis* bacterium. They found it by examining the skeletal remains of 109 humans buried at East Smithfield in London in 1349, all of whom carried the pesky bacterium. But the rats aren't totally away with it: it's likely that they were the vehicle for the spread from the Crimea to Europe.

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**GERMANY**

You're nothing on the global stage these days if you don't



Hugo Chavez (Reuters)

have a royal wedding. So luckily for Germany, some of their not-really-royal royals are tying the knot this weekend. Georg Friedrich, Prince of Prussia, is marrying Sophie, Princess of Isenburg. Friedrich is the great grandson of Kaiser Wilhelm II, which is a dubious claim to fame.

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**VENEZEULA**

A Venezuelan newspaper editor has turned himself in to police after publishing a front cover that angered Chavez and

his allies. The cover featured a photomontage of Chavez's women in power, featuring six prominent female officials as cabaret dancers. Now he's being investigated for insulting public officials and instigating hatred. Sunday Times, take note.

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**USA**

The International Air Transport Association has released a not remotely disturbing report concluding that hundreds of deaths in airline crashes

over the past five years are attributable to pilots who have forgotten how to fly, thanks to a growing reliance on autopilot. The study found that pilots tend to "abdicate too much responsibility to automated systems", which then malfunction, and everybody dies. Chicken or beef?

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## USA

Remember planking, the internet fad that featured people lying flat as a board on a surface and having a friend take a photo of them in some unlikely spot? Well, that's all over. The latest absurd but hilarious online photo craze is "stocking", where people imitate notoriously stupid stock images of the kind that photo agencies sell to illustrate concepts in magazines. Do yourself a favour and Google - it's funny stuff.

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## USA.

The son of designer Ralph Lauren, David, is marrying George Bush's granddaughter Lauren on Sunday. That's George, father of George W (who is Lauren's uncle). But American highfalutin society



Dubya (Reuters)

is abuzz with the news that all the Bushes will be snubbing the wedding as a result of a complex family feud involving Lauren's mother, Sharon Bush, who has brought shame on the family. Can we all just take a moment to rather focus on the fact that if Lauren takes her new husband's surname...

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## CHINA

The world's highest ferris wheel opens today in Guangzhou, China. Passengers will ride in see-through pods at the top of a 1,480ft tower. It can take 96 passengers at a time, and glass windows give them a 360-degree view. It takes around 30 minutes to go round its little track. The problem is it looks just like a higher version of the London Eye, which is pretty damn boring.

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## JAPAN

Sony has unveiled a head-mounted device that turns

your viewing 3D. It's like a pair of giant goggles and provides a cinema-like vision experience, equivalent to watching a movie screen from 20 metres away. It retails for a sturdy R4,500 and is aimed at people who prefer solitary entertainment. In other words, people with no friends, or people watching porn.

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## UK

Over the past few days we have brought you news of the political memoirs of Dick Cheney and Michele Bachmann. Now there's another to add to your groaning pile: former UK Chancellor Alistair Darling will release the dramatically-titled "Back from the Brink" next week. Excerpts have been leaked to a left-wing blog, though, and it's said that the book chronicles the total breakdown of relations between the Chancellor and the erstwhile Labour PM, Gordon Brown. Sounds a damn sight juicier than Dick's.

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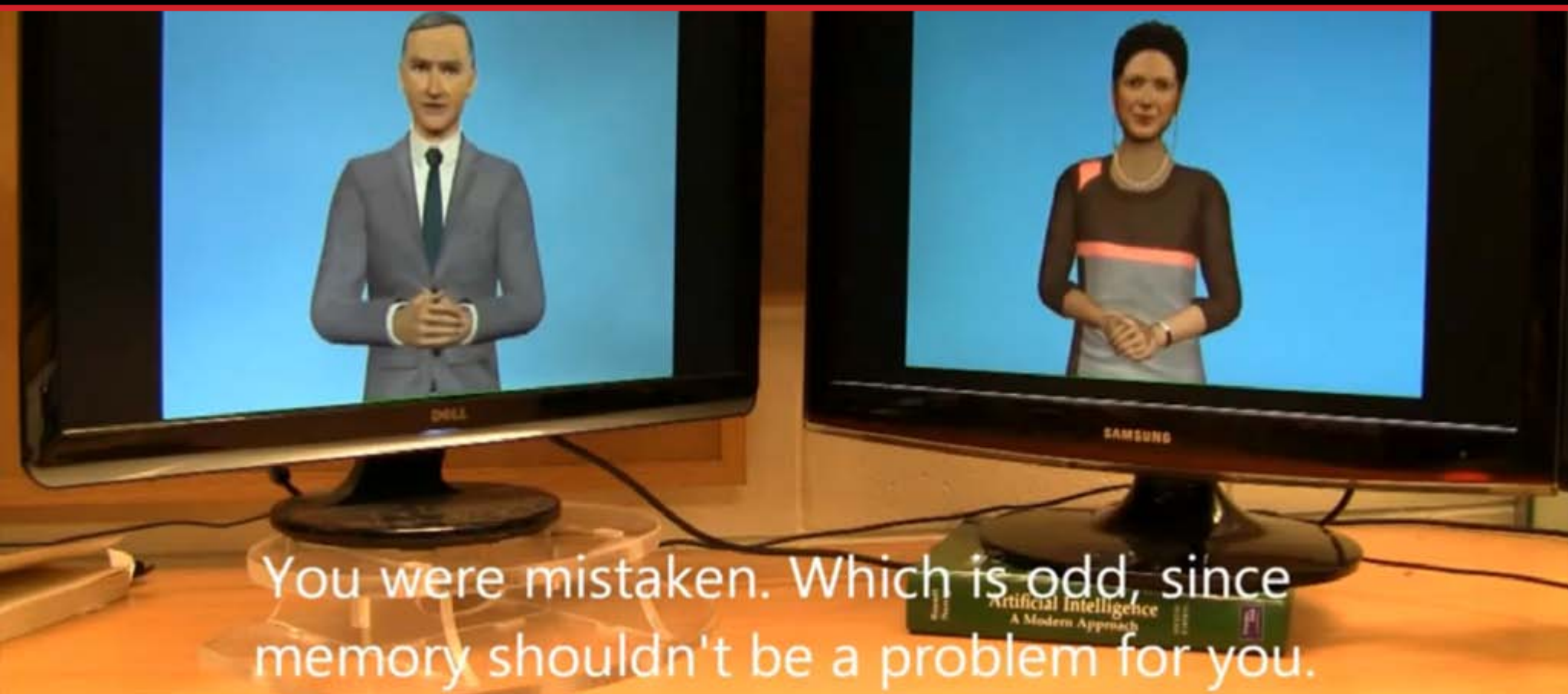
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## ROBOTIC CONVERSATION IS ROBOTIC

“Are you a robot? I am not a robot, I'm a unicorn.” Recently Cornell University filmed two chatbots talking to each other and, after a few pleasant banalities, their conversation rapidly degenerated into absurdism. Looks like the \$25,000 Loebner prize – to be awarded when judges can't tell the difference between conversing with a human and a computer – won't be claimed for a while yet. By THERESA MALLINSON.

“We wanted to know what would happen when you let two chatbots talk to each other...” it states at the beginning of the “AI vs AI: Two chatbots talking to each other” [video](#). Researchers at Cornell University found this out by linking an AI program to itself and filming the results.

The beginnings of the conversation sound like a first-grade reader: “Are you good? Yes, I am good. I just said I was.” But soon the absurd non-sequiturs take over. Our favourite line is “I am not a robot. I am a unicorn”, but there's also a sly attempt at humour, when the “male” chatbot (who has tricked his “female” counterpart into admitting she's a robot) says: “You are mistaken. Which is odd, since memory shouldn't be a problem for you”.

The only way in which the chatbots seem anything approaching human is in their clear distaste for each other. “But you say you are not helpful therefore you are a meanie,” sulks the male chatbot. “Haha you say it ot.” his female counterpart replies. Winning argument, that one.

The programme will be entered into the [Loebner Prize Competition in Artificial Intelligence](#) in October. The goal is to create an AI program that will convince judges they're talking to a fellow human being. The prize money? \$25,000. Somehow we suspect it's not going to be won in the immediate future – certainly not this year. 

Photo: [Youtube](#)



## KEEP THE HOME FLAG BURNING

One of the acts by Julius Malema's supporters which has most outraged older cadres of the ruling party was the burning of the ANC flag on Tuesday. But why are flags taken to be so sacred in the first place? By REBECCA DAVIS.

Brace yourself for a short history lesson. The precursor to the modern flag was the military standard. It was some form of identifying symbol, not necessarily a flag or even made of fabric, carried into battle since Bronze Age conflicts. It was only in the late 18th century, with the rise of nationalism, that countries began to adopt flags to be used in civilian (as distinct from military) contexts. One of the first was the Danish flag, introduced in 1854. Flags for individual political parties followed shortly after, with a colour protocol quickly developing: red flags for left-wing radicals, black flags for anarchists and dark blue were associated with conservatives.

The ANC's own flag has several components. The spear and shield represent early resistance to colonial rule and the MK armed

struggle. The wheel comes from the campaign for the Congress of the People, and symbolises non-racialism. Colour-wise, black is for South Africa's people, green is for its land, and gold is for the resources Julius wants to nationalise. That's some heady historical significance, all in all. When Malema's supporters show disrespect for the flag, we assume MK vets see it as an act of disrespect towards their fight and the ANC's whole history.


They're not alone in feeling attached to their flag. Whenever flags are burned, it's seen as a symbolic insult to the government of that country, and they're accordingly sensitive about it. Flag desecration is illegal in countries as diverse as Austria, China, Germany, Israel, and New Zealand. In South Africa burning flag isn't illegal – be they national or the ANC or any other. So the protesters were on the right side of the law. But they'll still face the ire of the party elders. 

Photo: REUTERS



## I'LL SEE YOUR VENTI, AND RAISE YOU A TRENTA: STARBUCKS GOES NEAR LITRE-SIZED MEGA CUP

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Go big or go home. This is Starbucks' thinking, now that outlets in the US have introduced the Trenta size. How big, relatively speaking, is the 31oz, or 916ml cup? Bigger, apparently, than the capacity of the average human stomach. By RICHARD POPLAK.

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In the now classic Pixar movie "WALL-E", a trash compacting robot spends his interminable life cleaning up our destroyed planet. It's 2805, and the corporation Buy-N-Large has long ago schlepped the remaining inhabitants of Earth off to space, where they continue to consume unabated. WALL-E finds himself on the spaceship Axiom, which resembles nothing so much as a vast, zero-gravity cruise liner, and the morbidly obese inmates live only to fill their gullets with stacked plates of food and Big Gulp-sized beverages.

For a good half of its running time, WALL-E is the finest science fiction film ever made. Then it just gets scary. So plausible is the notion of enormously fat folk floating around in an eat-all-you-can buffet that any enjoyment the film could otherwise provide—the eye-popping animation, the charming love story between WALL-E and a "fem-bot" named EVE—goes out the escape pod. WALL-E reminds us that, as a species, we may not have a shut-off valve. Given

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Photo: REUTERS

the correct set of circumstances, we'll consume ourselves off the planet.

Those “correct set of circumstances” might well be Starbucks, the Seattle-based coffee and lifestyle chain that is determined to get us all a berth on the Axiom. They have recently introduced the Trenta cup, a 916ml behemoth that is meant as a receptacle for their “iced beverages”. Now, along with Bob Dylan CDs and scented candles, the Starbucks guest can order almost a litre—a litre!—of liquid to start his or her day.


The Starbucks blog insists this isn't a ploy to make America fatter. To wit: “So, why did we launch the Trenta? We listened to you. You told us on My Starbucks Idea and through your purchases that you love refreshing iced coffee and tea beverages but want them in a larger size. Did you know that over 60% of our iced tea customers currently order our largest size, the 24 oz Venti?”

The notion that the Trenta is a consumer-driven concept is even more horrifying than it would be had Starbucks HQ simply yanked it out of the air as a desperate money-making ploy. (“70zs more for only 50 cents!”) It would seem that in the race to destroy both our species and the planet, a larger petroleum-based beverage container is exactly what we need to shunt things along.

How, one wonders, did we get here? America has always been a place of bounty, where the Puritans escaped the privations of the Old World for a place where even those of the lowliest station could fill their bellies and live in a 2,000m<sup>2</sup>, four-car garage über-home. America's foremost gourmand, the late New Yorker writer AJ Liebling, summed up the notion of New World appetite thus: “The Proust madeleine phenomenon is now as firmly

established in folklore as Newton's apple or Watt's steam kettle. The man ate a tea biscuit, the taste evoked memories, he wrote a book ... In the light of what Proust wrote with so mild a stimulus, it is the world's loss that he did not have a heartier appetite. On a dozen Gardiners Island oysters, a bowl of clam chowder, a peck of steamers, some bay scallops, three sautéed soft-shelled crabs, a few ears of fresh-picked corn, a thin swordfish steak of generous area, a pair of lobsters, and a Long Island duck, he might have written a masterpiece.”

In other words, America's brilliance is linked to America's waistline. And before South Africans get too uppity, that notion has travelled to the bottom of Africa, and how. (Observe the consumption rate at your average Sunday braai, and then start pointing fingers at Los Americanos.) It's a perfect New World concept, this eating ourselves to genius. But like all good ideas that begin in the belly, it has curdled into vice. Avarice stalks us like Death, scythe at the ready in the form of a Body Mass Index calliper.

Lest you think that the Trenta is an isolated phenomenon, Tim Horton's, the Canadian-owned chain that has become all but ubiquitous in North America, is now experimenting with a mega-cup. The trend will no doubt continue. After all, a litre of yummy iced-tea to jump-start your day shouldn't be thought of as gluttony. Rather, consider it fuel for busy 21st century lives. And make sure you have a berth booked on the Axiom.. 

#### READ MORE:

1. “How big, exactly, is Starbucks new Trenta size?” in [The National Post](#)
2. “Trenta means more refreshment” on the [Starbucks Blog](#)

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by Stephen Francis & Rico



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**SOUTH AFRICA**
**RUGBY**

Blue Bulls coach Pine Pienaar has not hesitated in including fit-again Springbok loose forward Dewald Potgieter in his side for Saturday's Currie Cup clash against the Sharks at Loftus Versfeld. Potgieter has recovered from the broken nose that sidelined him from the Bulls' last two fixtures and replaces Arno Botha, who will revert to the role of impact player off the bench.

**FOOTBALL**

South Africa's coach Pitso Mosimane is sweating over the fitness of star striker Katlego Mphela ahead of Sunday's 2012 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Niger in Niamey. Mphela, Bafana's third highest scorer of all time, injured his right knee in training on Wednesday – prompting concern in the national camp. "Mphela will undergo further assessments, he only limped off this morning and further updates will follow," team Dr Ephraim Nematswerani said.

The KwaZulu-Natal Government Department of Sports, Arts and Culture's investment



Katlego Mphela (Reuters)

in local clubs continues as AmaZulu pair Lunga Sokhela and Philani Mabaso travel to Bundesliga side FC Augsburg for a study tour. Usuthu confirmed on Wednesday marketing manager Sokhela and public relations manager Mabaso would travel to Germany to further their experience and knowledge in their respective fields.

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**EUROPE**
**GOLF**

Three of Europe's best, world number two Lee Westwood, Open champ Darren Clarke and US Open winner Rory McIlroy, are set to return to action in Switzerland this week. The trio have all spent time away from professional golf since

the USPGA Championship. Lee Westwood went water-skiing, Darren Clarke did some fishing, and McIlroy spent some time with his girlfriend, Caroline Wozniacki, watching her win the New Haven tennis tournament ahead of her US Open bid.

**RUGBY**

Romanian wing Catalin Fercu has been replaced in his country's World Cup squad after his fear of flying preventing him from travelling to New Zealand.

Fercu, who has 51 Test caps and played in three games at the 2007 World Cup, was withdrawn from the squad at the last minute after refusing to embark on the 40-hour journey to New Zealand.

**F1**

Lotus-Renault GP team owner Gerard Lopez admits he is surprised by Nick Heidfeld's decision to take legal action against the team. Heidfeld has decided to go down the legal route after Renault handed his race seat to Bruno Senna for the rest of the season. His hearing is expected to take place in three weeks and the German is confident he will come out victorious.

**UK****FOOTBALL**

Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney is relishing his football again following his recent travails. The England ace, who plundered a hat-trick in the 8-2 humiliation of Arsenal, courted heavy criticism last term following a poor World Cup, lewd allegations over his private life and a shock transfer request from United. However, Rooney has regained his focus and joy for the game, producing stellar displays this season.

Moneybags Manchester City are considering enlisting injury-prone midfielder Owen Hargreaves. The 30-year-old, who



Wayne Rooney (Reuters)

was released by Manchester United in the off-season, has made only four appearances in the last three years due to tendonitis and knee problems.

However, Hargreaves could be on the way back to the top flight after undergoing a medical at Eastlands on Tuesday.

**US****GOLF**

If Tiger Woods is not careful, he might be forced to miss out on his own event, the Chevron

World Challenge, at the end of the year. While the former world number one has confirmed he will play in the Frys.com Open in California at the start of October, another Californian event later in the year – one he happens to host – could end up putting him in a tough situation. Only the top 50 in the world are allowed to play in the Chevron World Challenge, taking place from 1 - 4 December in Thousand Oaks, California. Woods, currently ranked 38th, is in danger of falling even further down the rankings before the Chevron's 20 September cut-off point.



## VICTOR AND SMITTY, A MARRIAGE MADE IN RUGBY HEAVEN

John Smit and Victor Matfield have spent 10 years as Springbok team-mates and are determined to end their international careers on a high. By STYLI CHARALAMBOUS.

The duo are South Africa's two most-capped players with 213 Tests between them, spanning a decade. During this time the two forged one of the best thrower-jumper line-out combinations in world rugby. They have been through many highs and lows, with the nightmare of "Kamp Staalraad" preceding two Tri-Nations titles and a magical World Cup win in 2007.

"Victor and I - it's crazy. We've played a huge number of Tests together," Smit told Associated Press.

"We've seen each other get married, have kids. We've been through Staaldraads together, we've won World Cups and Tri-Nations, we've lost Tri-Nations. We've had our moments up and down and we've always had each other.

"For me, it's just a special relationship. A lot of

people take Victor for granted. He's a phenomenal player and a great leader. He's been a pillar of strength for me. I've relied on him heavily throughout my time as captain and he's stepped up and provided," said Smit.

However, matters have not been too rosy following their World Cup triumph, with Smit in particular coming in for some harsh criticism in recent times. The performances of the Springboks too have dipped with the South Africans dropping to third in the world rankings.

Smit believes the challenging times have only made the Springboks a stronger unit.


"I think a team that can prepare itself well for a curve ball, but also react well to a curve ball makes a good team. And this team has seen a few curve balls in its time. We've overcome a lot of them and some we haven't. It's those lessons where you haven't that you have to hold onto," said the hooker. 

Photo: REUTERS



A recent survey published in New Zealand, asked which team would you least like to win the World Cup? Unsurprisingly, bigger Tasman brothers Australia topped the list, with South Africa in second place. By STYLI CHARALAMBOUS.

It says something about the psyche of New Zealanders that Australia would top this survey. Of the 750 people polled, 33.8% indicated that it would irk them more than any other competing nation should the Wallabies win the Cup. The number was almost double the 18.6% that put South Africa in second place and England in third with 9% of the vote.

Perhaps it's the fact that Australia are regularly dominated in the Bledisloe Cup and Tri-Nations competitions that gets under the Kiwi World Cup skin. Or maybe it's because the lesser-rated Australians, for whom Rugby Union is third choice behind League and Aussie Rules, have twice knocked out the All Blacks from the RWC. We presume the survey was conducted before the Wallabies beat the All Blacks to win the 2011 Tri-Nations last weekend – otherwise that would also fuel the fires of resentment.

Losing to Australia is a bitter pill for the All Blacks to swallow. Kiwis regard themselves as the

pinnacle of rugby and to see Australia, a nation whose rugby pedigree is relatively new, win the World Cup twice would have made New Zealand's lack of World Cup success – except for the first tournament in 1987 when NZ beat the French 29-9 to be the first holders of the Webb Ellis trophy – even more difficult to comprehend. Whereas the sporting histories of New Zealand, South Africa and England are dominated by rugby encounters and tales of hard-fought tours, Australia were very much regarded as a 2nd rate rugby nation for much of the last century.

There is also the notion that some simple schoolboy jealousy is at play too. New Zealand, with an economy and population a fraction of Australia's, have had to sit back and watch as their neighbours excelled in so many facets of sport, politics and economics that have contributed to their sometimes frothy relations.

And with Australia having beaten the All Blacks to win the Tri-Nations, you can be sure any World Cup encounter between these two nations will be epic. **TM**

Photo: REUTERS



## ENGLISH RFU HITS BACK AT FORMER CEO

The Rugby Football Union has criticised former chief executive Francis Baron for making disparaging remarks about it. By STYLI CHARALAMBOUS.

The board has been the subject of great debate in recent times after a highly-critical (yet unpublished) review by Judge Jeff Blackett following the sacking of chief executive John Steele in June.

In an interview with the Daily Telegraph, Baron accused the RFU board of "gross mismanagement" and said that a "complete collapse in governance standards" had occurred.

Baron called for members of the board to be hauled before a disciplinary panel and for acting chief executive and former board chairman Martyn Thomas to be removed from his post.

He added the Blackett report should be made available to all RFU members and be debated at a special general meeting. The report could not be made public at the board's previous meeting

after Blackett was threatened with legal action regarding its contents.

The RFU have not taken kindly to Baron's remarks and questioned the timing of his criticism.

"The Rugby Football Union is disappointed by the continued criticism by the former chief executive, Francis Baron, whose latest remarks contain allegations that are totally unfounded and unworthy of a former chief executive with 12 years distinguished service," the RFU said in a statement.

"As is widely known, the RFU board and RFU council are both meeting this Friday, when a number of these issues will be addressed, including whether to release the Blackett report. Following the meeting, a formal announcement will be made by Paul Murphy, acting chairman of the RFU," the statement added **iM**

Photo: REUTERS



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