



ROYAL AIR FORCE OFFICERS' CLUB

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BRYANSTON 2021

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RAFOC REMINISCENCES AND RAMBLINGS - WEEK 275 3rd OCTOBER 2025

GREETINGS:

“Oktober, die mooiste, mooiste maand” has arrived bringing welcome rain... Former sports minister Nathi Mthethwa found dead in Paris –apparent suicide... South Africa heading towards a serious financial disaster due spiraling debt... Telkom network suffers national outage... End of an era for Eskom and Transnet as private enterprise takes over... The dark side of Eskom’s miraculous turnaround... Truth about the end of Eskom sabotage... Malema guilty, defiant: 'Prison or death is a badge of honour'

Name change for Kruger National Park shot down...SAPS legal head exposes Mchunu's executive overreach in police...

Panic in Kremlin - another top official commits 'suicide' as Putin purge gathers pace... Trump: Your countries are going to hell over migration... Europe has never looked more pathetic or weaker on the global stage... Netanyahu: Weak-kneed West can't appease their way out of jihad... Dame Jane Goodall dies.

Prince Harry claims Private detectives spied on William... BBC has lost the rights to broadcast the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, as director of sport “views it as elitist”... Oktoberfest shut down over bomber's threat to target festival

TEMPEST: MEETING THREATS NOT YET KNOWN:



This Tempest mock-up was on display at DSEI 2025

The Royal Air Force is expecting to see the Tempest – its next-generation combat aircraft – enter service from 2035. The sixth-generation multi-role fighter is being delivered under the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP) to replace the capabilities provided by the 4.5-generation Typhoon.

Like the Typhoon – and the Tornado that came before it – the Tempest is a collaborative effort, this time seeing the UK team up with Italy and Japan, with other countries also expressing an interest in joining the project. Industry partners BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce, Leonardo and MBDA are working with the Ministry of Defence to develop the technologies needed for the new jet. It is not yet clear whether the design has been finalised, with the latest mock-up seen at the recent DSEI defence industry fair looking different to the original model. However, the Tempest may well turn out to be the most advanced combat aircraft the world has ever seen. The RAF explained: "To meet threats we don't even yet know about, we must create a next-generation air combat system which is agile, flexible, connected, rapid to update and affordable." (*ForcesNet*)

NSM: 100 MILE KILLING RANGE:



HMS Somerset has carried out the first firing of a new missile that is capable of taking out enemy targets on land or sea at ranges of more than 100 miles.

The Plymouth-based Type 23 frigate headed to Norway's rocket range in Andøya, inside the Arctic Circle, to launch the Naval Strike Missile (NSM) during Exercise Aegir 25 alongside her Norwegian and Polish allies.

The NSM can be used against warships or land targets and succeeds the old Harpoon system on Type 23 frigates and Type 45 destroyers.

The successful firing was the culmination of months of dedicated work, which involved meticulous planning and thorough tuning of the system, including alignment and sea acceptance trials.

Staff from Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace, which manufactures the NSM, were on board HMS Somerset to support the firing.

The NSM, which is also in service with the Norwegian, Australian, Netherlands, US and Polish navies, travels close to supersonic speeds and avoids detection by skimming over the sea.

It will be a complementary weapon for the Future Cruise Anti-Ship Weapon, which will become the Navy's premier long-range, heavy duty anti-ship missile. This will be carried by the Royal Navy's next-generation warships fitted with the Mk41 vertical launch system, including the new Type 26 and 31 frigates.

\$10 MILLION RUSSIAN HELI DOWNED BY \$500 UKRAINIAN DRONE:



President Zelensky has thanked a Ukrainian drone unit for engaging and destroying a Russian helicopter.

The 59th Separate Assault Unmanned Systems Brigade, variously known as the Predators of the Heights or the Steppe Predators, posted a video of the incident.

"Today we have replenished our collection of 'fat' targets," it said, presumably referring to the tactical and financial value of the Mi-8, which has the Nato reporting name of Hip.

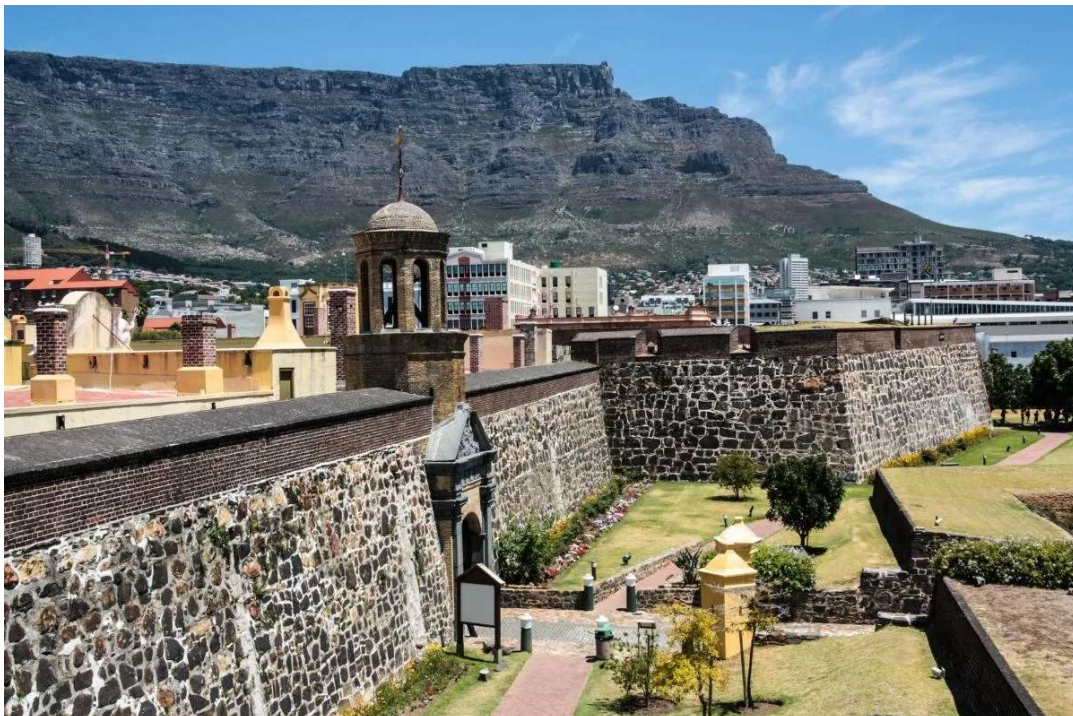
"The crew of the Baltika destroyed a Russian Mi-8 attack helicopter worth over \$10m, and they did it with a small FPV drone [called] Shrike, worth only \$500.

"This result was possible thanks to the coordinated interaction of intelligence, headquarters and pilots – and most importantly, thanks to the people who support us. Every contribution, every help, every kind word makes such victories a reality."

Video taken by the first-person view attack drone – which appears to be a quadcopter – shows it homing in on the helicopter, approaching it from the front.

The Russian crew are seemingly unaware and do not try to make any evasive manoeuvres or deploy countermeasures before the video goes blank, the drone having apparently struck the starboard side of the aircraft. (*ForcesNet*)

CASTLE OF GOOD HOPE GETS A REVAMP:



The Castle of Good Hope has towered over Cape Town for centuries, reminding the city of its layered past. The Dutch East India Company built the star-shaped fortress between 1666 and 1679, making it South Africa's oldest surviving colonial building and a site where military history, cultural memory, and national identity intersect. Now, restoration teams are carrying out long-awaited work to revive

the landmark's status as a premier heritage site. Reports show that in recent years, the Castle has struggled to live up to its historic stature. Peeling paint, overgrown gardens, and outdated facilities left visitors questioning whether one of the country's most iconic heritage sites was slipping into neglect. Even the art gallery and restaurant, which were meant to showcase culture and hospitality, displayed signs of decay, including damp smells, cracked walls, and aging infrastructure.

Now, a state-backed restoration programme is actively working to return the Cape Town Castle to its former glory and make it a destination befitting its historic significance. Castle of Good Hope CEO Calvyn Gilfellen detailed the upgrades already in motion:

- A new perimeter fence will replace the old boundary where the homeless once sheltered.
- Security cameras are being restored.
- Plumbing teams are repairing the ageing water lines.
- Roofs in the back courtyard have been waterproofed, with the rest scheduled soon.
- Broken window-panes are being replaced alongside fresh coats of paint.
- Vegetation growth around the bastions has been cleared.

The Castle of Good Hope's signature yellow walls are next, with repairs planned for the cracked façade near the Kat Balcony.

Restoring a 369-year-old monument comes with its own complications, Gilfellen cautioned. "Most of the work can only proceed when the wet weather is completely behind us," Gilfellen said. "And, being a 369-year-old building, normal, modern building techniques and protocols do not apply here – often leading to time lags and delays." he added. *(SA People News)*

FIRST JUMBO JET:



30 September 1968: The first Boeing 747, City of Everett, was rolled out at Boeing's Everett, Washington plant. It was registered as N7470, and carried Boeing's serial number, 20235. Identified internally as RA001, the Boeing 747-121 was the first "jumbo jet."

The 747-100 series was the first version of the Boeing 747 to be built. It was operated by a flight crew of three and was designed to carry 366 to 452 passengers. It is 231 feet, 10.2 inches (70.668 meters) long with a wingspan of 195 feet, 8 inches (59.639 meters) and overall height of 63 feet 5

inches (19.329 meters). The interior cabin width is 20 feet (6.096 meters), giving it the name “wide body.” The airliner’s empty weight is 370,816 pounds (168,199 kilograms) and the Maximum Take-off Weight (MTOW) is 735,000 pounds (333,390 kilograms).

The 747-100 is powered by four Pratt & Whitney JT9D-7A high-bypass turbofan engines. These can produce 46,150 pounds of thrust (205.29 kilonewtons) each, or 47,670 pounds of thrust (212.05 kilonewtons) with water injection (2½ minutes). The Boeing 747-100 has a cruise speed of 0.84 Mach (555 miles per hour, 893 kilometers per hour) at 35,000 feet (10,668 meters) and its maximum speed is 0.89 Mach (594 miles per hour/893 kilometers per hour). The maximum range at MTOW is 6,100 miles (9,817 kilometers). *(On This Day)*

TRANSNET - FROM ZERO TO HERO?

Transnet’s operational performance has improved remarkably over the past year, with the ports and rail utility significantly reducing the average handling time at harbours across South Africa and increasing its rail tonnage.

While still far off its lofty targets, this does indicate that Transnet’s decline has bottomed out and that it is not firmly on the path to recovery.

Coupled with its operational improvements is the opening-up of particular rail corridors and port terminals to private players, which is set to boost investment and improve outcomes.

This progress was outlined in the latest Business for South Africa (B4SA) briefing on the progress made through the government’s partnership with big business to tackle the binding constraints on South Africa’s economy.

These efforts have been focused on South Africa’s energy sector, alongside logistics, crime and corruption, and youth unemployment.

As part of the update from B4SA, Transnet’s improving operational performance was outlined by Toyota South Africa Motors CEO Andrew Kirby.

Kirby explained that the logistics sector experienced a low point in 2023, prompting significant intervention from the government and big business to improve the sector’s efficiency.

In the 2022/2023 financial year, Transnet only managed to transport 149 million tonnes of cargo on its railways, down from 226 million tonnes in 2018.

Apart from the dismal performance of Transnet’s railways, the average handling time to discharge cargo at its ports was 21 days.

On average, the queues of trucks at South Africa’s border posts were 19 kilometres, with only 1,500 trucks processed daily. Transnet was characterised by mismanagement, a lack of leadership, and widespread vandalism and corruption. “This low point spurred us on to collaborate with Transnet, and in the last two and a half years, there has been a marked improvement, not just in performance but also in the working relationship,” Kirby said.

Transnet implemented a formal Recovery Plan, backed by new leadership and a R51 billion government guarantee facility. This marked a clear pivot from crisis management to structural reform. *(Daily Investor)*

OVER 100 000 BANKING BREACHES – SAPS RECORDED ONLY 544 CASES:

Over 100 000 banking breaches in 2024 caused R1.8 billion in losses, yet the South African Police Service (SAPS) recorded only 544 cases. This is according to the Democratic Alliance (DA), which said it has consequently tabled a Private Members Bill establishing a new Chapter 9 Institution in the form of the ‘Office of the Cyber Commissioner.’

While the response from the private sector and academia was overwhelmingly positive, the Bill's reception in government and the public sector was predictably less positive, said Advocate Glynnis Breytenbach, DA Spokesperson on Justice and Constitutional Development.

Nevertheless, as the cyber-attacks on the country and our institutions increase daily, and the costs attached thereto continue to escalate, it remains a piece of legislation that requires serious consideration, Breytenbach said. It appears from police statistics that they have only 544 cyber related fraud cases on their register, yet in excess of 100 000 cyber-attacks on banking accounts occurred in the year 2024, according to the SABRIC. This represents a loss of around R1.8 billion to individuals and represents an 86% increase in such attacks from the previous year.

"Clearly, there is a distinct problem in the fact that the SAPS have so few matters under investigation while the actual attacks have almost doubled. This again underlines the fact that we are in no position to deal effectively with the risk of cybercrime in South Africa. Our country is targeted precisely because of our inadequate structures set up to deal with this issue," Breytenbach continued "The SAPS are underfunded, under-resourced and under trained. The Information Regulator is not adequately resourced nor equipped to deal with all these occurrences, and cyber criminals are having a field day.

"It is clear that some proactive steps must be taken urgently to revisit this issue, and we will continue to press ahead with this piece of legislation, designed to deal with cyber-crime, cyber-attacks and protocols in a more pro-active fashion," Breytenbach concluded. (*Protection Net*)

BELOVED JOBURG DRINKING SPOT UP IN FLAMES:



Johannesburg's beloved Zoo Lake Bowls Club has been left in ruins after a fire gutted the iconic landmark in the early hours of Wednesday morning. The club was a popular drinking hole and social hub for many Joburgers, and Club members!!

Residents out on their morning jogs watched in shock as thick black smoke and flames rose from the clubhouse just after 6:00. FireOpsSA and the City of Johannesburg's Emergency Management Services (EMS)

rushed to the scene, where the fire had already ripped through the timber roof. More than 25 firefighters worked for hours to contain the blaze, which was intensified by the building's wooden framework and ongoing renovations. By 10:00, the fire was under control, though crews and a drone operator remained on site to check for hotspots. (*SA News*)

FERRARI'S, FOOTBALL CLUB AND FRAUD:



A disability care director has left Australia despite claims his company owes more than \$6.4 million to the tax office, employees and other creditors, while facing allegations from a liquidator of insolvent trading and funnelling money into offshore property and luxury assets.

A preliminary liquidator report from last month, which is subject to further investigations, alleges Adachi Disability Services directors Adrian Tafari Mtungwazi, 53, and wife Chiedza Mtungwazi, 45, misused company funds, drawing more than \$2 million in “director loans”, buying a Ferrari, and a shopping centre and football club in Zimbabwe.

In the report, Pitcher Partners liquidator Andrew Yeo told creditors Mr Mtungwazi left Australia in May citing “family reasons”, and More at h a Pitcher Partners spokesperson confirming she was “cooperating fully” with the ongoing investigation.

If the claims of insolvent trading are prosecuted and proven, the directors face hefty fines and potentially criminal charges that carry up to five years jail time. No charges have been laid to date. According to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, directors are not prevented from leaving Australia while their company is in liquidation, as long as they continue cooperating with investigators. More at: [Zimbabwean director leaves Australia despite \\$6.4m in debts, luxury spending and insolvent trading claims](#) (*Western Australian*)

CHEERS FOR NOW:

'Wat gee ek om die winter?

Wat praat jy nou van Mei?

Wat skeel dit as ons later weer donker dae kry?

Ek is nou in Oktober, die mooiste, mooiste maand, met elke dag so helder, so pragtig elke aand !'
(Louis Leipoldt)

Your Editor and his new bride are enjoying this Oktober maand in some beautiful parts of SA, namely the Southern Drakensberg, Griqualand and the North and South KZN coasts. Readers will understand if this edition of Ramblings is somewhat shorter or less focussed than usual – your Ed has certain other priorities.

NB No October lunch: Thanks to a generous invitation from Lee Connolly, CEO of Paramount Aerospace Industries, a number of RAFOC members will be attending a tour of their premises at Wonderboom Airport. This is where the both AHRILAC and MWARI aircraft are built.

As the date for the tour is Friday 3 October we will **NOT BE HAVING A MONTHLY LUNCH** at Wanderers this month, and the next lunch will accordingly be on Friday 7 November 12h30 for 13h00, (nearest to Armistice Day 11 November) and will be preceded by a wreath laying at the Wall of Remembrance facing the carpark.

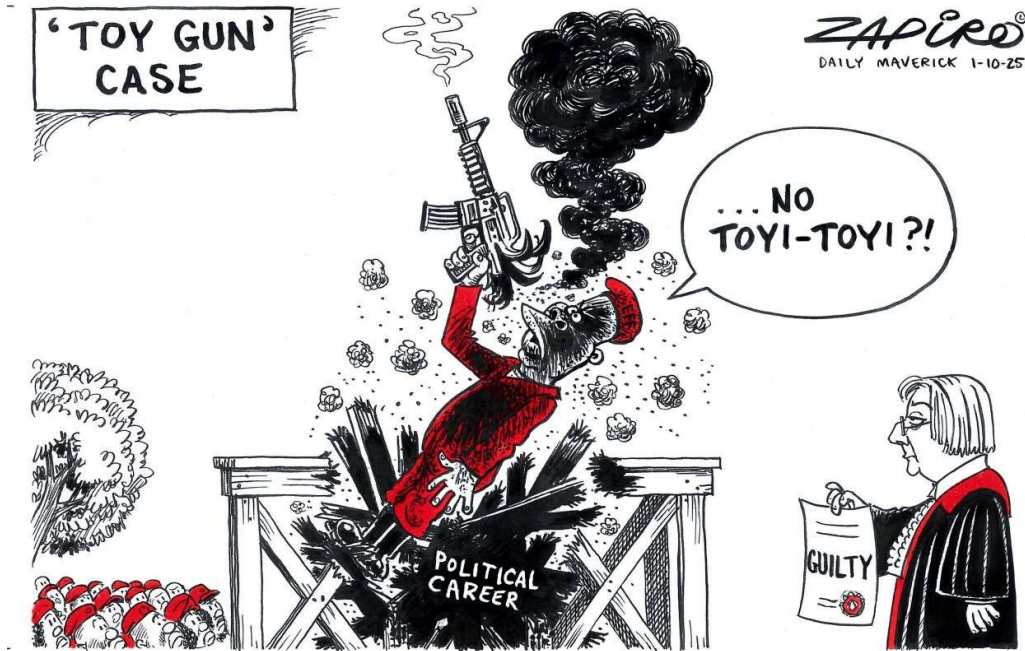
TAILPIECE:



'Point the camera at your appendix. Does it hurt when I press here?'



'We just scan your digital ID card now. That tells us everything we need to know'



Well, would you look at time...



LOOK, SON.

RIOTERS, ARSONISTS, AND LOOTERS ARE HERE TO TEACH US ABOUT PEACE AND EQUALITY.

It's really tough for lumberjacks to get a ride to work.

