



BizNewsDigest

THE RATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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Cadres running scared

Long-suffering South Africans, even those more cynically inclined, have reason to celebrate Arrest October, now that the National Prosecution Authority is finally cracking the whip. At last count, 17 suspects had been rounded up with more arrests on the cards under the rejuvenated leadership of the NPA, and nourished by the flow of evidence at the Zondo Commission into State Capture. It's early days, but a tangible momentum shift is undeniable, that the corrupt elite's days of reckoning are coming. The likes of serially-implicated ANC secretary general Ace Magashule and former minister Nomvula Mokonyane, among others, must know it's not if, but when the Hawks put on the cuffs and take them for a drive. – Derek Alberts

By Claire Badenhorst

The State Capture Commission has heard from key witnesses about how several meetings were held with former president Jacob Zuma, his close friend Dudu Myeni, and Eskom executives in 2015. According to the testimonies, four executives had to be replaced with cohorts who are more 'Gupta-friendly'.

The shadowy figure of former Zimbabwean lawyer Nick Linell also shed a light on how he and Myeni – also the former chair of South African Airways (SAA) – played crucial roles in this ever-thickening plot. Myeni also had a hand in wrecking South Africa's economy, between enabling Gupta-related corruption in Eskom and helping to bring SAA to its knees.

Running out of patience with Jacob Zuma's delaying tactics, Deputy Chief Justice Raymond



"Well, if jail-time is out of the question, how about some good ol' public flogging? One lash per R Million?" – Chris Summers

Zondo demanded that the former president appear at the commission in November.

The ultimatum did not go down well with Zuma who said he refuses to testify and also called on Zondo to step down.

However, Zuma's intransigence fired up South Africans who are baying for the blood of the recalled president in a torrent of no-holds barred tweets.

[Read the full article here](#)

Ace quivering

The Free State asbestos project that led to the arrest of seven suspects, including fast-living tenderpreneur Edwin Sodi, cast even more aspersions on deeply implicated ANC secretary general Ace Magashule.

He is said to be feeling the pressure though, so much so that he sought clarity on rumours of his imminent arrest.

[Read the full article here](#)

Manoeuvres in the dark

The hearings also cast light on the murky doings of one Nick Linnell, an associate of Dudu Myeni, who is alleged to have done her bidding behind the scenes at SAA and Eskom.

[Read the full article here](#)
[Read also](#)
[State capture: The Dudu and Jacob Show](#)

BRIEFS

Business
Confidence Index

85.7

September 2020

R640m

Sanral shortfall
to date

Afrimat

interim headline
earnings per share

0-5%

R4bn

Checkers

increase in
market share

R8m

Value of
luxury carsattached from
accused Edwin Sodi

16 days

Scotland
to close pubs

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Tongaat's turn-around takes shape

BizNews founder Alec Hogg wonders if the spirit of resilience that saved Tongaat Hulett from catastrophe, is now hinting at a sweet investment opportunity in the making.

By Alec Hogg

They tend to steer away from emotion at SABMiller, the world class corporation which shaped Gavin Hudson who is leading Tongaat-Hulett's rescue.

So it's instructive to read the latest annual report where Hudson describes the impact of his predecessor's financial mismanagement as "devastating" and pushing the group to "the brink of catastrophe".

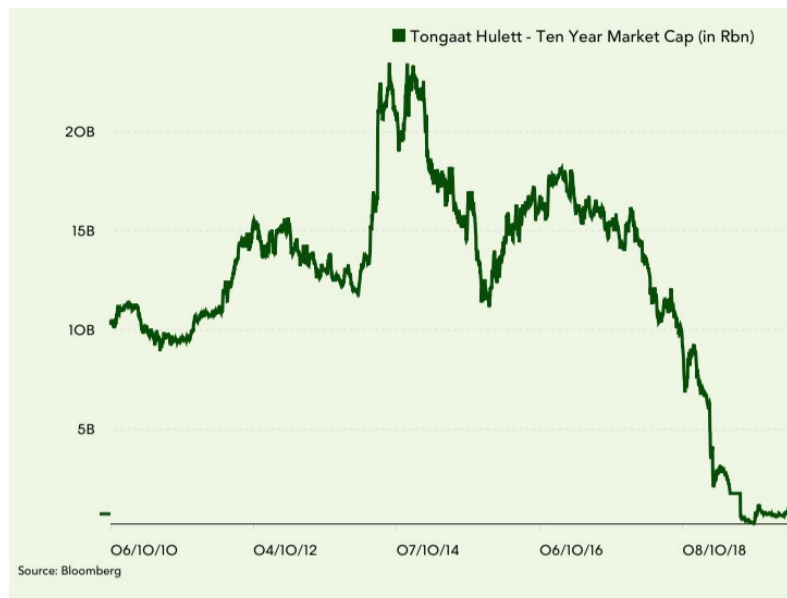
The graph showing Tongaat Hulett's market cap in the past decade tells the real story. When

it comes to fallen angels, few JSE-listed companies come close. But after Tongaat's success last month in the dispute on the sale of its starch business, there's now a glimmer of light.

The net R5bn in cash from the sale of the business to Barloworld will cut the group's debt burden by around half to R6bn.

The annual report puts Tongaat's property holdings alone as being worth R11bn. Deduct the debt and we're left with property assets worth 5x the market cap – without the core sugar business.

[Watch the webinar here](#)



Tongaat's market capitalisation plumbed the basement the last two years

Could Tongaat really be shaping up as the ultimate turnaround opportunity?

Listen to what Hudson has to say

in the *Rational Radio Webinar* as he is quizzed by professional money managers David Shapiro and Chris Logan.

For more insight:

Episode Three of Inside Investing features the investment case for Barrick and Berkshire; Purple Group and Famous Brands; plus an update on the Kisby SME fund from Mark Barnes.

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End lockdown, say scientists

By Jarryd Neves

Aphalanx of scientists has urged the government to lift the lockdown in view of the unintended medical consequences.

Among the scientists count Cape Town-based scientist Dr Michael Levitt who received the Nobel for chemistry in 2013 for developing methods to calculate the courses of chemical reactions.

The initiative is gaining the support of the scientific community whose members have added their signatures to a petition asking governments to rethink Covid-19 lockdowns.



Dr Michael Levitt

Known as the Great Barrington Declaration, the petition points out that regulations are 'producing devastating effects on short and long-term public health'.

These include 'lower childhood vaccination rates, ever-worsening cardiovascular disease outcomes, fewer cancer screenings and deteriorating mental health leading to greater excess mortality in years to come'.

Some of the brightest minds in South African business have Tweeted their support for the Declaration, including Sygnia founder Magda Wierzycka and Nick Hudson, of Covid-19 thinktank PANDA.

[Add your voice to the debate](#)
[Connect via the BizNews Premium WhatsApp Group](#)

[Read the full article here](#)

Eskom's nuclear scam

The delivery of the first of six new steam generators by French manufacturer Areva last week to extend the life of Eskom's Koeberg nuclear power station is another scam at Eskom, perpetrated during the infamous leadership of Brian Molefe, Matshela Koko and the dodgy Eskom board at the time.

So says energy expert and Eskom critic Chris Yelland at a time when the beleaguered power utility is hogging the spotlight on the Zondo Commission as several whistle blowers shone a light on the behind-the-scenes machinations to manipulate tenders and award contracts to ANC cadres. Against this background, Yelland maintains that the steam generators for Koeberg represent the most expensive transport of scrap metal in the history of humankind.

[Read the full article here](#)

Reality a figment of Zuma's imagination

[Read](#)

Former President Jacob Zuma is a proponent of a "post-truth" culture that negates fact-finding, expertise and research. Within such a culture, speakers become increasingly comfortable with claiming that reality is whatever they say it is, without any evidence that can be evaluated against objective criteria through reasoned argument. This approach, says Cathleen Powell, an Associate Professor in Public Law at the University of Cape Town, is what former South African president Jacob Zuma adopted when he demanded that Deputy Chief Justice Ray Zondo recuse himself from the state capture inquiry.

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Invest to Inspire



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Hedderwick speaks out on Famous Brands

In the eighth episode of The Alec Hogg Show, the BizNews founder talks to Kevin Hedderwick about the Famous Brands journey.

By Alec Hogg

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Kevin Hedderwick

For a decade and a half, Famous Brands was one of the JSE's top performing shares. But after a disastrous acquisition in the UK in 2016, the share price has been spiraling downwards. It's down now by two thirds from the recent peak. With Covid-19 hammering the food service sector, investors seem to be steering a wide berth.

But things might be changing. I asked former Famous Brands chief executive Kevin Hedderwick whether his successor, Darren Hele, has what it takes to get the business back to its former glory.

Alec Hogg (AH): When I look at Famous Brands' market cap today, it's back where it was in 2011. So you're buying business from nine years ago. If he is any good or if he's another Kevin Hedderwick, then surely this would be something that investors should be looking at very closely.

Kevin Hedderwick (KH): By his own admission, he will say he's not a Kevin Hedderwick and no two of us are alike. But he's a very astute young man, not so young anymore – we're getting older. He's got a big engine; I've never met a man with an appetite for work like Darren. He inherited the business, which was at the peak of its performance at the time. A lot of things have gone against him.

None of the stuff that's happened in Famous Brands of late could be

laid at the door of Darren. I can honestly say that the business couldn't have wished for a greater successor to myself. He knows the business intimately. He's a wonderful man. Just give him time. It goes back to the basic stuff. Get the housekeeping right and the balance sheet will be right.

AH: Is Famous Brands still doing that?

KH: Of late, I've tried to stay out of Famous Brands. I'm not even a shareholder anymore. I've relinquished all my shares in the business, because for too long I was emotionally attached to that business. Nothing can prepare you for leaving a business like Famous Brands, after you've been there 18 years and it's consumed your life.

So I can't tell you what the current state of the business is because I don't go in there. When I do go in there, I perhaps don't look at it through the same set of eyes that I used to when I was the CEO. But again I think there's still a lot of people at Famous Brands that were there in my time and if they're still doing what we taught them to do or what we expected them to do, I see no reason why it shouldn't be.

AH: Covid has got to be a huge challenge for them?

KH: Covid – for the restaurant industry in South Africa – has been tragic. They've probably

been the hardest hit by a country mile. It's going to take a long time to recover from it, but it's trickling back. I understand that in the quick service spaces, it's up to 80/90% of what it was. In the sort of casual dining environment, it's probably up to 50/60% now. The guys serving alcohol were very hard hit, at one stage doing just 25/30% of their turnovers.

So the landlords have been very generous in helping. And so, of course, was the employment fund with TERS. But those two holidays are coming to an end now. Landlords won't always say they're going to subsidise rent and UIF is going to dry up. So there are still a few moments of truth down the line for a lot of the restaurant space.

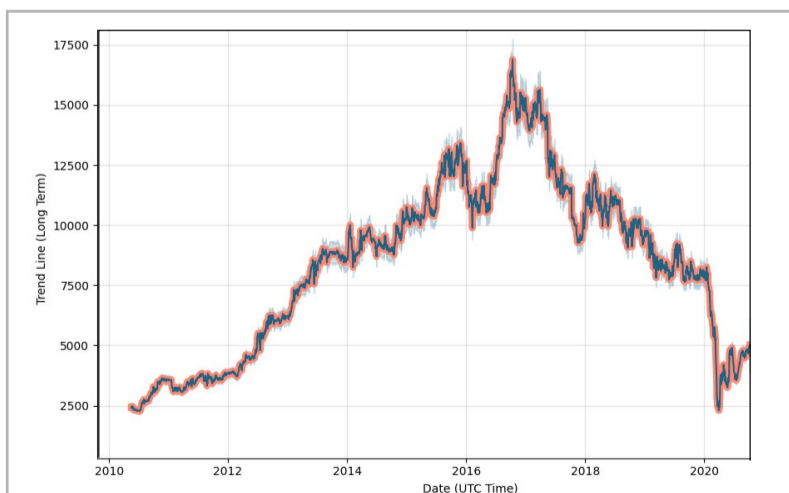
AH: Was it over traded?

KH: Oh, yes. it's over traded. The funny thing is that it just doesn't stop. Once a restaurant always a restaurant. There's a site, there's a restaurant, doesn't work and closes. Some other guy reopens it again.

AH: Why?

KH: I think there's this myth about the fact that the restaurant business is like a magical place to work and it's a great place to make money. It's not. It's an unforgiving business and it's relentless. People don't understand how tough it is to succeed in the restaurant space. It is just hard work.

Long hours and hard work. Not so long ago, it was quite an attractive, sexy investment. Today, not really. Today, the returns are not what they used to be. Not too long ago, any guy that owned five Wimpys had the ability to be a multi-millionaire. It doesn't exist anymore.



The Famous Brands share price reflected tough times.

The Alec Hogg Show



The BizNews founder and broadcasting veteran hosts this half hour audio biography with guests selected simply because they're interesting, on the basis that if their stories were captured in book form, they'd likely be a best seller. The half-hour podcast is intended to leave listeners better informed, uplifted...and inspired.

IN SHORT

Business confidence slips on uncertainty

The South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Business Confidence Index (BCI) dipped marginally to 85.7 index points in September after improving to 85.8 in August. The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown impacted worse on the business climate than the global recession of 2007/8 with the BCI well below the average level of 113 in 2009, Sacci says.

Residential vacancies in double-digit territory

South Africa's flat vacancy rates soared to 11% in Q3 2020 from 7% in the prior quarter as all major cities now boast vacancy rates in the double digits, according to the latest Rode Report on the South African Property Market. "Rentals are heading south due to the oversupply of flats, linked to huge increases in new rental stock in 2018 and 2019 and weakening demand," the reports says.

Less traffic hits Sanral where it hurts

Sanral has recorded a revenue loss of R640 million to date in its 2020/21 financial year as a result of reduced traffic on toll roads during the lockdown. The country has been awaiting clarity on the future of controversial e-tolling since July 2019 as the uncertainty has resulted in low payment compliance.

PNP washes its hands off aQuellé

Pick n Pay is the latest retailer to cut ties with the aQuellé water brand after the owners of the brand, KwaSizabantu, continue to face massive backlash following an exposé alleging the KZN mission was in gross violation of human rights and abusing its church members. Other retailers clearing their shelves are Woolworths, Makro, Game, Spar and Food Lover's Market.

Airlink adds summer flight to Madagascar

Airlink will commence seasonal flights between Johannesburg and Nosy Be, Madagascar, on December 13. The airline plans to operate weekly flights for six to eight weeks over the peak summer holiday period. Like South Africa, Nosy Be airport opened for overseas flights on October 1.

SA Mint shines light cataract breakthrough

The South African Mint has immortalised the invention of the retinal cryoprobe by Dr Selig Percy Amoils in 1965 that had revolutionised cataract surgery. The invention is featured in its 2020 crown and tickey coin series as part of the South African Reserve Bank subsidiary's ongoing celebration of national inventors and inventions with a global impact. Only 1,000 of the sterling-silver R2 crown coins and 1,000 of the sterling-silver 2½ c tickey coins have been minted.

Europe to tighten curbs as Covid-19 spikes

Several countries in Europe yesterday announced plans to tighten restrictions amid growing alarm that the region is losing control of the coronavirus pandemic. France, Belgium, Germany, Scotland and Italy announced rising Covid-19 infections and made plans to limit gatherings and trading hours in some sectors. In Scotland, all pubs in Glasgow and Edinburgh will have to close for 16 days from tomorrow under the latest wave of Covid-19 restrictions in Scotland, a move one trade body called a "total catastrophe".

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Living the life in Lisbon

One of the more exciting and unique partnerships that BizNews has is with LX Living, a fascinating project that provides the opportunity to acquire an EU passport through a property investment in Lisbon. In this excerpt on *Inside Investing*, BizNews founder Alec Hogg talks to the proprietor of the project, Malcolm Lobban.

Alec Hogg (AH): Malcolm, there have been quite a lot of developments recently and it was a good idea to catch up with you on exactly where you are standing. We were talking earlier and you explained that the building plans have now been passed for the project. Just explain why that's so relevant?

Malcolm Lobban (ML): We had the authority to start construction and produce the shell and we're well on track with that process. But the building plans were finally approved just a couple of weeks back. The significance of that for our European investors is that it gives them comfort, that we're fully compliant with future requirements for our project.

AH: Over the months that we've



Strong demand for Lisbon property among South Africans keen on Plan B

been talking about the project, there's been a lot of interest from the BizNews community and particularly in the whole Golden Visa idea. To put it another way, if they invest in the project, they'll be able to get the right to live in Europe. Has this been of appeal to people in other parts of the world? Because I know you don't just market to South Africans.

ML: The interest in Portugal and the Golden Visa programme comes from most parts of the world where there might be a current challenge. The fact that there's no crime and a bunch of tax breaks for foreigners finally deciding to

financially immigrate into Portugal and spend more than 183 days a year in the country. There's a basket of attractive options available for foreigners looking for a plan B option.

AH: As far as the South Africans are concerned, are you seeing that there's increased interest in the project?

ML: With all the challenges and headwinds that we face in our country – I think you or somebody was saying a while ago – the two big topics on many South Africans' minds are corruption and foreign investment. Certainly, we've seen

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a renewed interest from South Africans.

So the appeal for South Africans who've invested in LX Living or indeed looked at it – and we've had enough webinars and conversations about the project over the past few months – is that they're going into a society that seems to have handled Covid a lot better than most parts of the world.

AH: But what about the returns on the investment? Because I think from the outset you've been saying this isn't just a way to get a Golden Visa, there actually have to be sizable investment returns as well. How are they stacking up?

ML: Bearing in mind that one is borrowing money at all-time lows at the moment – around 1%, a bit above fixed rate funding, long-term funding, high loan to value, up to 75% loan to value opportunities – means that investment returns are looking very attractive, yields around 10% on a leverage basis. Also, capital growth in Lisbon property prices is at 9.8% average per annum over the past 10 years.

Explore US residency possibilities

The EB-5 visa programme for investors is one of the most popular avenues towards residency in the United States.

To facilitate the process, SA-based Sable International offers a full portfolio of relocation and investment services to individuals, families, farmers and business people seeking to broaden their horizons in the US.

Accredited with the Geneva-based Investment Migration Council, Sable is a leading relocation expert.

For a comprehensive overview of what it takes to become a global citizen, see the webinar hosted by BizNews founder Alec Hogg.

View the webinar sponsored by Sable International here



Low-fee passive investing going places

Finance Friday Webinar



Jackie Cameron
BizNews editor

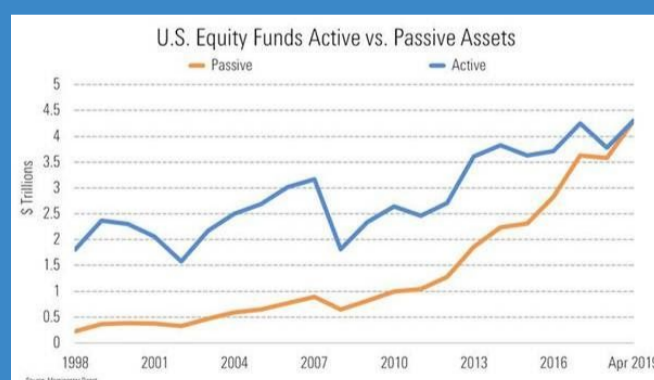


Lisa Segall
GinsGlobal Index Funds



Magnus Heystek
Brenthurst Wealth Management

In a recent *Finance Friday Webinar*, BizNews editor Jackie Cameron spoke to two investment experts, Magnus Heystek of Brenthurst Wealth Management and Lisa Segall of GinsGlobal Index funds, about passive investing. The discussion makes for great listening, not least because this investment vehicle's highly attractive low-fee cost structures.



Passive investment has been gaining popularity as this graph indicates.

Here are some of the insights by Segall and Heystek:

"Passive fund investment is actually harder than active fund management because you've got a benchmark that you have to track as closely as possible."

"If the index firm that you're using makes a mistake, it's very apparent."

"The two main key points are to minimise your volatility and your risk."

"Choose an index that's very diversified."

"Look at a global equity, which tracks the MSCI world. That's got 1600 stocks. It's very diversified in terms of region and sector."

"You cannot live in the 21st century and say you're not going to use index funds. They work and they are cheap."

View the Finance Friday Webinar here



LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT OFF-SHORE INVESTMENT?

Bumbling Boris heading for a bruising

By Simon Lincoln Reader

Across Britain, there is an overwhelming sense of self-righteousness from the wrong people. “Boris Johnson is a failure,” this smug, expanding section barks, “and we predicted it so.”

Interestingly, it's not just those with their pronouns or verification ticks in their Twitter handles who delight at the next incoherent stammer or public information u-turn: among his own people – those voters ecstatic with December 13th's result – Boris is now irreversibly unpopular. In the unlikely event he were to get everything else right, it would not make the slightest difference – the slide, unlike anything I've ever seen, has been brutally rapid, merciless.

How it came to this

Boris' first mistake was to conflate his own once undeniable popularity with the election's result. The Conservative Party growth agenda was clearly more attractive than the reparation one featured in Labour's manifesto, led from the front by Jeremy Corbyn (had Labour won, and China not unleashed chaos on the world, the crisis of identity and historical revisionism prompted by the BLM movement would have been central to policy – what we have seen in flammable pockets

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson committed three cardinal sins that have come to haunt him, at a time when he needs all his faculties to deal with a messy Brexit divorce.



and contentious claims, would be flooding Parliament's benches).

In the diminished reality that often follows spectacular election victories, Boris lost sight of the conditions attached to the votes he had borrowed from the traditionally Labour-supporting north.

His second mistake was to avoid taking the threat of Covid-19

Read the full article here

seriously. When it was discovered he had missed key COBRA (emergency) briefings, he infuriated the left, its media support complex and the more sensible Labour MPs who had survived the misery of the Corbyn experiment. Buoyed by the election of a metropolitan,

Fabian lawyer as its new leader, the opposition sniffed blood the moment the Prime Minister belatedly took his first advice from chief scientists and medical officers.

Initially, this advice was to pursue a model response similar to Sweden's (lock up the elderly, do not close schools or workplaces, etc.). But the events at a North London hospital

on Sunday afternoon in mid-March changed everything.

Whether or not the problem could be located in the hysterical behaviour of a neurotic receptionist will never be known, but Downing Street received a message claiming that the Northwick Park hospital in Harrow, north London, was buckling under the strain of Covid-19 admissions. This led to Johnson's third and final mistake.

Lost complete control

Somehow this information was couriered to Britain's most hopeless (and possibly quite evil) scientist, Imperial College's Neil Ferguson, who then inserted it into his Jack and the Beanstalk machine. It is not unreasonable to suggest that, at the entrance of the appalling Ferguson, Boris lost complete control of Covid-19, his own administration's response to it and subsequently, any trace of competence.

Covid-19 has become more than a crisis, extending into the charged and divisive issues of our time, from race to inequality – all the time gathering strength. As things currently stand, one of its greatest casualties will be the Prime Minister of a nuclear power.

Read also:

- [This is why the Rupert Murdoch series is grossly biased](#)
- [Can Herman Mashaba grab voters from the ANC?](#)

THE WRY EYE

Down Under miner's dirty laundry

Environmentalists embroiled in a R14m defamation case against an Australian heavy minerals miner and its South African subsidiaries, could be forgiven a wry smile at news that its controversial CEO, Mark Caruso, has some trouble of his own back home in Perth. Caruso allegedly faces criminal charges of “assault, aggravated home burglary and trespassing”, serious enough to step down as executive chairman of the board of Mineral Commodities, or MRC, but not as its CEO. While MRC subsidiary Mineral Sand Resources churns up swathes of the West Coast, Transworld is coveting titanium deposits buried in the pristine beaches of the Pondoland Wild Coast. MRC's activities don't sit well with the environmentalists and their lawyers who can't wait to rub Caruso's nose in the dirt he is so keen to mine.

Catching the hoax

With the countdown to the US presidential election hotting up, the anti-Trump lobby had a field day with the news that the POTUS and his FLOTUS were diagnosed with Covid-19. Social media platform Reddit was on fire as contributors laid into the president and reminded him – and others – of his dismissive arrogance towards the pandemic and calling it a democratic hoax. As a commentator pointed out drily, the POTUS caught the hoax.

Digital danger

This howler from a digital publication in the Knysna area speaks for itself.



Rush to vote

Speaking of the US presidential election, more than 3.8 million Americans have already cast their ballots in 31 states ahead of the November vote. According to the early numbers compiled by the US Elections project, the surge in voting suggests that a record turnout was on the cards, as only 75,000 had voted at this time in 2016. This suggests the early-poll number will soar as more states open early voting.

Charmed silence

Magnus Heystek of Brenthurst Wealth Management is known for calling a spade what it is, and is seldomly at a loss of words as a host of financial advisors would attest. But viewers watching last week's Finance Friday webinar hosted by BizNews editor Jackie Cameron on passive investing would have been amused at Heystek being taken aback at the wit of fellow panellist Lisa Segall of GinsGlobal. Flooring him with a quip about “beauty before age”, Heystek, urged to go first, for once, was left utterly speechless.

GOOD HOPE

reinventing
the South African narrative

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It's kick-off time, finally!

By Derek Alberts

Much to the anticipation of rugby fans in South Africa starved of action over the past six months, the revamped domestic season kicks off this weekend.

Six of the seven sides involved in the Super Rugby Unlocked competition will strut their stuff this weekend. While the Stormers have a by, the Sharks will host the Lions on Friday evening, followed by the clashes between the Cheetahs and Pumas, and the Bulls taking on the Griquas outfit from Kimberley.

The Sharks, the in-form side before the early termination of Super Rugby action thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, hope homeground advantage – albeit in a deserted King's Park – will give them the platform against their upcountry rivals.

Coming off a loss against the Bulls in the season-opening showdown last weekend, Sharks coach Sean Everitt would have had time to



Springbok captain Siya Kolisi will not see action this weekend in view of the Stormers' by.

prepare his team and also bring in some of the stalwart players who, for one reason or another, did not make the trip to Pretoria last weekend. The Lions, too, would be hoping for a more commanding performance after going down to the Stormers in the other match of the double header. Pretty much an

Also read:

SA teams Bulls, Lions, Sharks, Stormers to play in Europe

unknown quantity, the Lions can expect to rely on the boot of stand-in Bok flyhalf Elton Jantjies.

The battle between the old rivals

may well be decided up front with both the Sharks and Lions fielding a number of Bok hopefuls in their packs. Teams will hope for the set pieces to flow smoothly and create space for both backlines brimming with serious pace out wide.

The Cheetahs have plenty to play for when they host the neighbouring

Super Rugby Unlocked

Friday, 9 October

7 pm: Sharks vs Lions

Saturday, 10 October

4.30 pm: Cheetahs vs Pumas

7 pm: Bulls vs Griquas

By: Stormers

Griquas in Bloemfontein in the early match on Saturday. Having been ejected from the PRO14, the boys from Bloem will be keen to put down a marker and remind the administrators of their contribution to the local game.

The Bulls, fresh off their win over the Sharks, will be confident against the team from Mpumalanga when they meet under lights at Loftus Versveld.

The Nelspruit-based team has, over the years, accounted for the scalps of better resourced teams. However, whether the Pumas can pull off a win against the Jake White-coached Bulls remains to be seen.

Bok showdown reveals little

By Derek Alberts

The only positive from the weekend's Springbok showdown – with Green beating Gold 25-9 – is that the players who took to the field avoided serious injury.

Representing the best domestic talent currently, any additions to the walking wounded would have caused the coaches more headaches, especially with a mounting list of injuries among the Europe-based players.

Pivot Elton Jantjies put in a workman-like performance in the

absence of Handré Pollard, thanks to the crisp service from the stand-out player of the day, scrumhalf Sanele Nohamba. The Sharks number 9 had a blinder and earned himself a tick behind his name with a fluid, influential game at the base of the scrum. A singularly gifted ball player, Nohamba is destined for a great Springbok future.

The opposite applies to another precocious talent, Stormers flyhalf Damien Willemse who had a day he'd rather forget. Not only did he leave his kicking boots at home, he also copped a yellow card and a penalty try for a cringe-worthy foul on Yaw Penxe.

Proceedings otherwise confirmed the obvious, that domestic players need more time on the field. The scoreline notwithstanding, the teams were evenly matched in most departments.

To read more into the match-up of two very differently composed teams, is folly. The gold team's decision to build a squad on a Stormers spine didn't pay off, and not only because of young Willemse's implosion. The difference on the day was accurate goal-kicking, a few fortuitous bounces, and the inventive play of Nohamba. On a different day, the result could easily have gone the other way.

Will the Boks play?

Despite frenetic preparations at home ahead of the rejigged southern hemisphere Rugby Championship, South Africa's participation in the competition kicking off on November 7 remains in doubt.

A final decision about the World Cup champions' participation in the four-nation showpiece will be made on Saturday, October 10, ironically the same day that a revamped domestic tournament gets underway.

The main concern is that the Springbok side is decidedly undercooked for what is likely to be a tough competition against Australia, Argentina and New Zealand. It is a concern that Springbok coach Jacques Nienaber has repeatedly aired over fears that his charges won't be physically ready for the tournament in Australia from November 7 to December 12.

While the Wallabies and All Blacks have been playing competitively, South Africa and Argentina have been hamstrung by the coronavirus lockdown conditions. All will be revealed on Saturday.