The education and arrival of Salim Abdool Karim

The education and arrival of Salim Abdool Karim

South Africans were on Monday greeted by a live television interview as Professor Salim Abdool Karim, SA’s an immunologist and infectious diseases specialist from University of Natal gave a two-hour briefing to the media on the coronavirus. Abdool Karim provided clarity and honesty about the spread of Covid-19, explained whether we are “flattening the curve” and what needs to be done before South Africans can return to normal.

His appearance on an open platform was important. South Africans need to know that the decisions taken by their government are based on scientific facts and verified science. Abdool Karim went as far as state that the WHO met to address him, and that the knowledge of the country’s most accomplished scientists are getting government’s backing.

Investigative reporter Sean Davis delved into Abdool Karim’s background and found that he was an activist as an activist as a politician, and that he was professional back in Anthony Fauci, dubbed “America’s doctor,” who is leading the United States’ response to the coronavirus. Also, analyst Matli Molao says that there is a very good reason to hear SA Reserve Bank Governor Lesetja Kganyago’s explanations, and former human rights commissioner Leon Mwakali says Covid-19 has again exposed unshaved corners.

There’s a lot more writing in this edition, and a lot to think about.

Stay safe, only two weeks to lockdown left.

Pretoria, 3rd

Assaf lavender

---

Climbing the time, lives and education of Salim Abdool Karim

Professor Salim Abdool Karim, the government’s chief adviser on Covid-19, has achieved worldwide acclaim in a career spanning more than thirty years. He has established himself and earned himself professional fees, and helped shape the Thabo Mbeki on Covid-19. But this, the battle against the coronavirus, is his moment.

By Sarah Evans

---

Climbing Covid-19: The lessons old apartheid divides and rules new boundaries

We are much more versed in the past that we were at the future. The new coronavirus has emphasised old apartheid divides, like spatial planning, and have put new boundaries between people. The virus has forcefully reminded us that we have not overcome the warts of our past.

By Leon Mwakali
OPINION
There are very good reasons to listen to Lesetja Kganyago

The governor of the SA Reserve Bank might sound like a stuck record, but he's playing a consistent tune: reform, reform, reform.

By Mondli Makhubu

OPINION
Covid-19 is giving African governments cause to crack down on media

Many African governments are silencing freedom of expression under the guise of tackling Covid-19, restricting access to information and undermining the basic human rights of ordinary citizens. They must be kept in check.

By Willem Cronje

OPINION
Why concerns about transparency, quality of data in the fight against Covid-19 are valid

South Africans are making great sacrifices during the national lockdown and we need to understand exactly why we’re doing it, and maximum transparency is critical.

By Nicola Fritz

OPINION
Why lockdown relaxation is tougher for President Ramaphosa

Notwithstanding the acceptance (and necessity) of the almost inevitable evisceration of the lockdown, the prolonged lockdown has meant the violation of a total disruption to the rituals of normal life are likely to be their toll as we move towards the end of April.

By Daniel Sila

Photo of the week

A view of the first of the four phased reopening of local growth points on May 18th for the national lockdown on 14 April 2020 in Cape Town. Residents are forum with the new environment management fee not telling in case of failing to quote people to them. (Photo: Calico Images Gentl and Hyers

Editor's pick

- Anatomy of a lobby: How and why, until and nuclear interests are converging. The coal industry remains at the centre of the South African energy mix, with a strong push still being made to add nuclear energy into the equation. Who are the groups and individuals behind these lobby groups, and what do they want? Beep Ears reports.

- SA’s world-class scientists, doctors and all to deploy our own political ideas: Government and the health department have been given time to prepare for the “welfare” of Covid-19, but it is going to have to do so with a notoriously underperforming public health system, creaking under the demand for services and battling with a lack of resources, writes Andile Lwazi.

- Cabinet eyes cut of a poor IRF duty by Treasury: The cuts to ministers’ salaries is a PR move by President Ramaphosa and in poor taste. Our country is facing a financial crisis which threatens the future of our economy. Anyone who believes these problems are solved only in the past few months is fooling themselves, says Mondli Makhubu.