

South Africa and the United States:

What impact global politics have on trade, industry and agricultural decision-making





FERTASA, Cape Town

Theo Venter

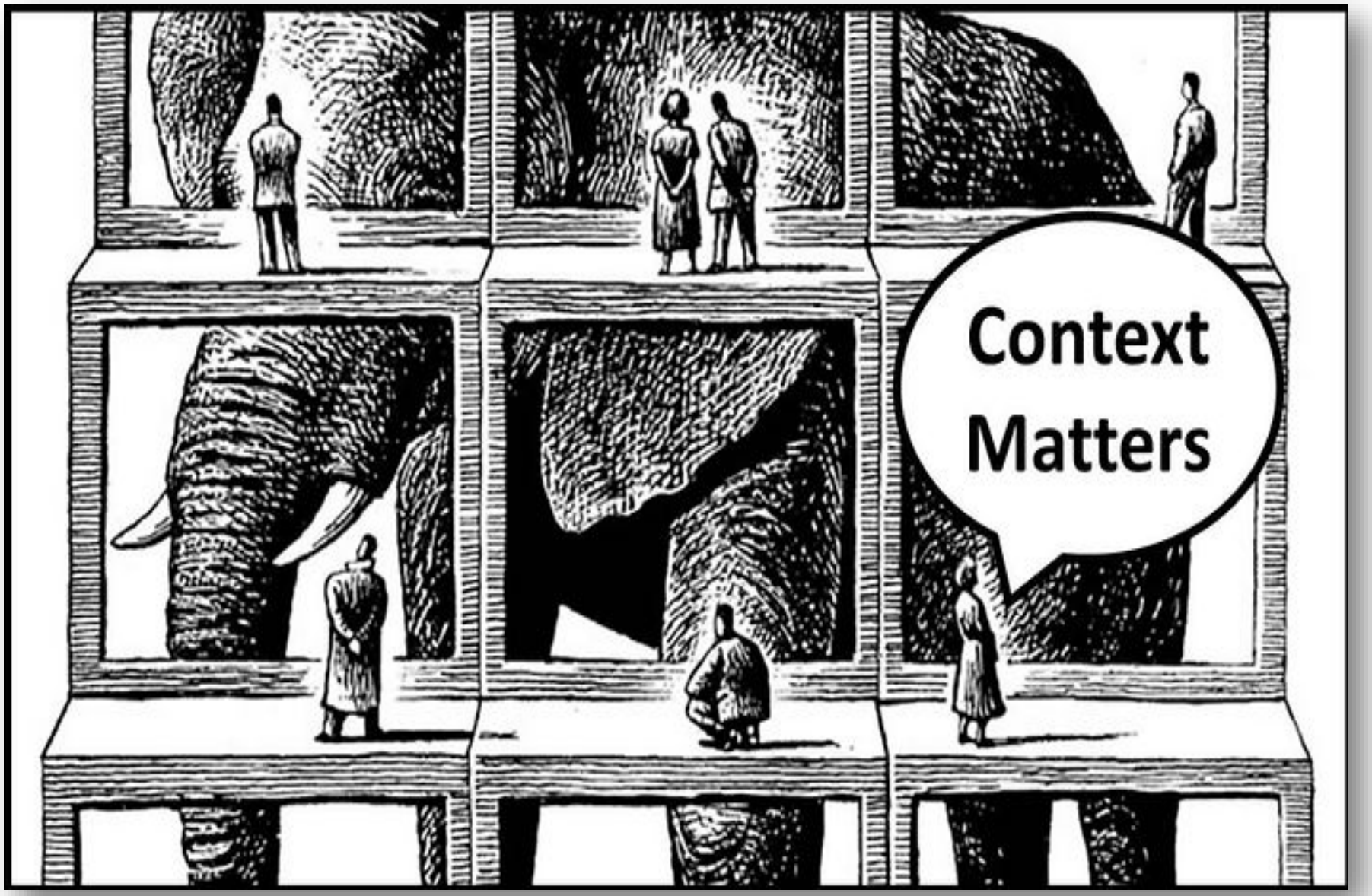
21 May 2026

NWU BUSINESS SCHOOL

Outline

- Global uncertainty with Trump 2.0
- Impact of region conflicts
  - Ukraine
  - Iran
- Impact on South Africa
- State of US-RSA relations
- State of the GNU
- 2026 Local government election
- Conclusion

The context and perspective very important



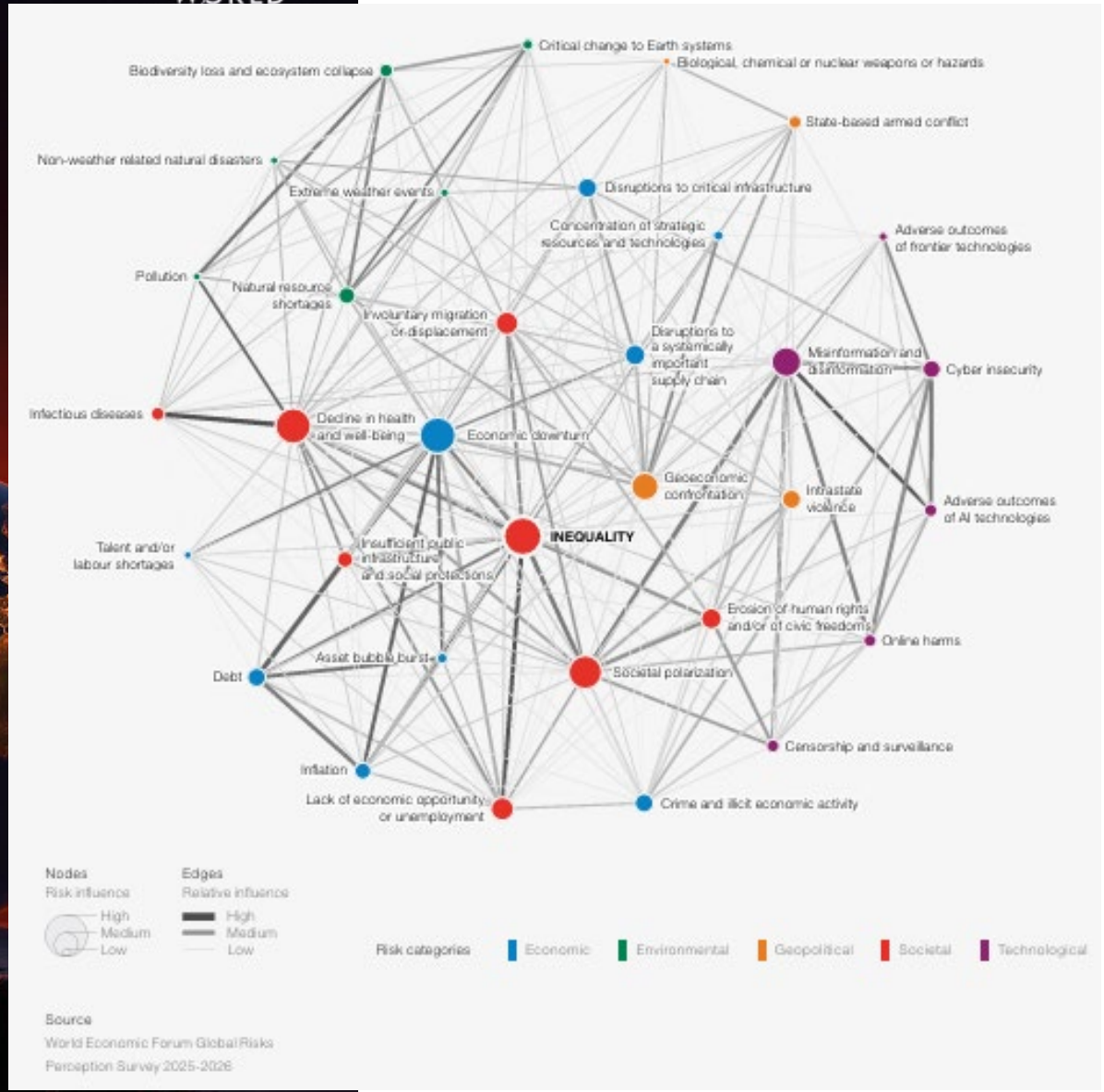
WORLD

The Global Risks Report 2026

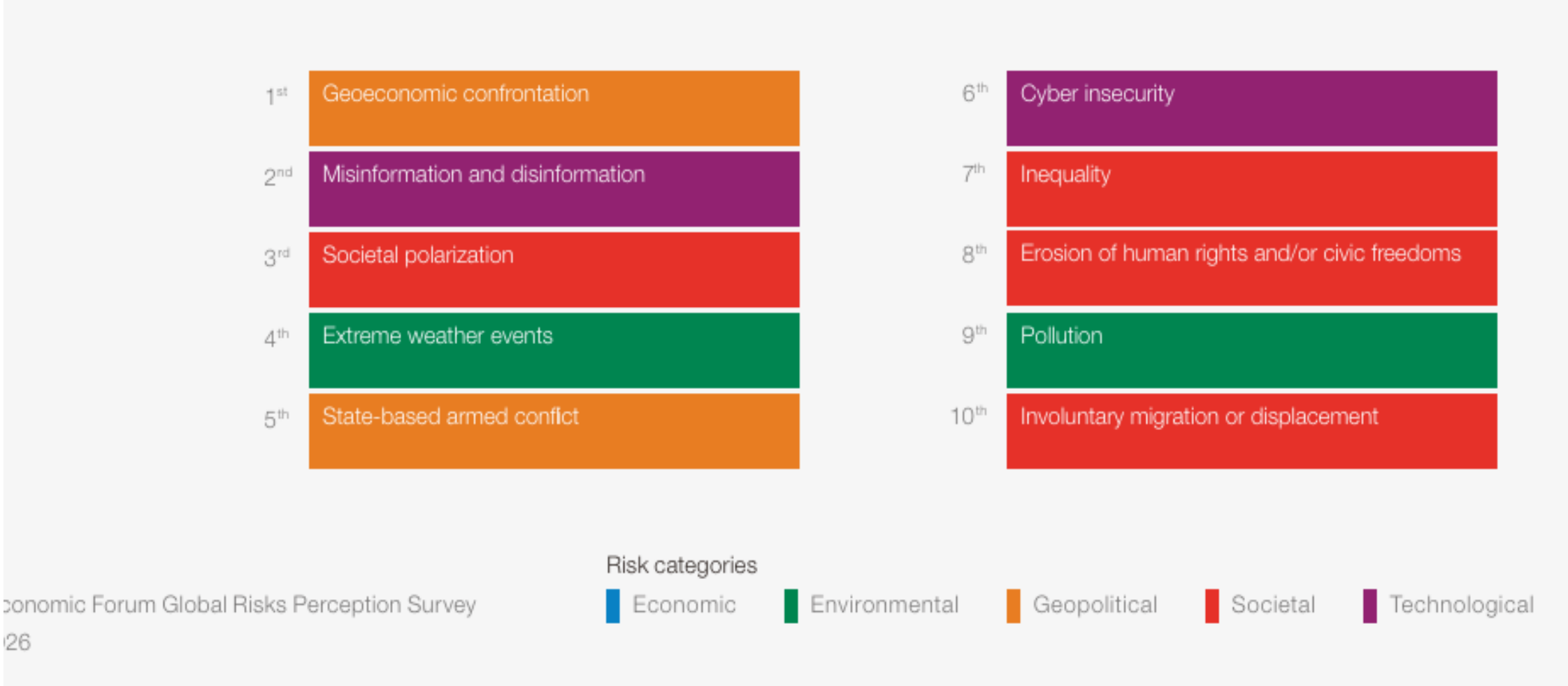
21st Edition

INSIGHT REPORT

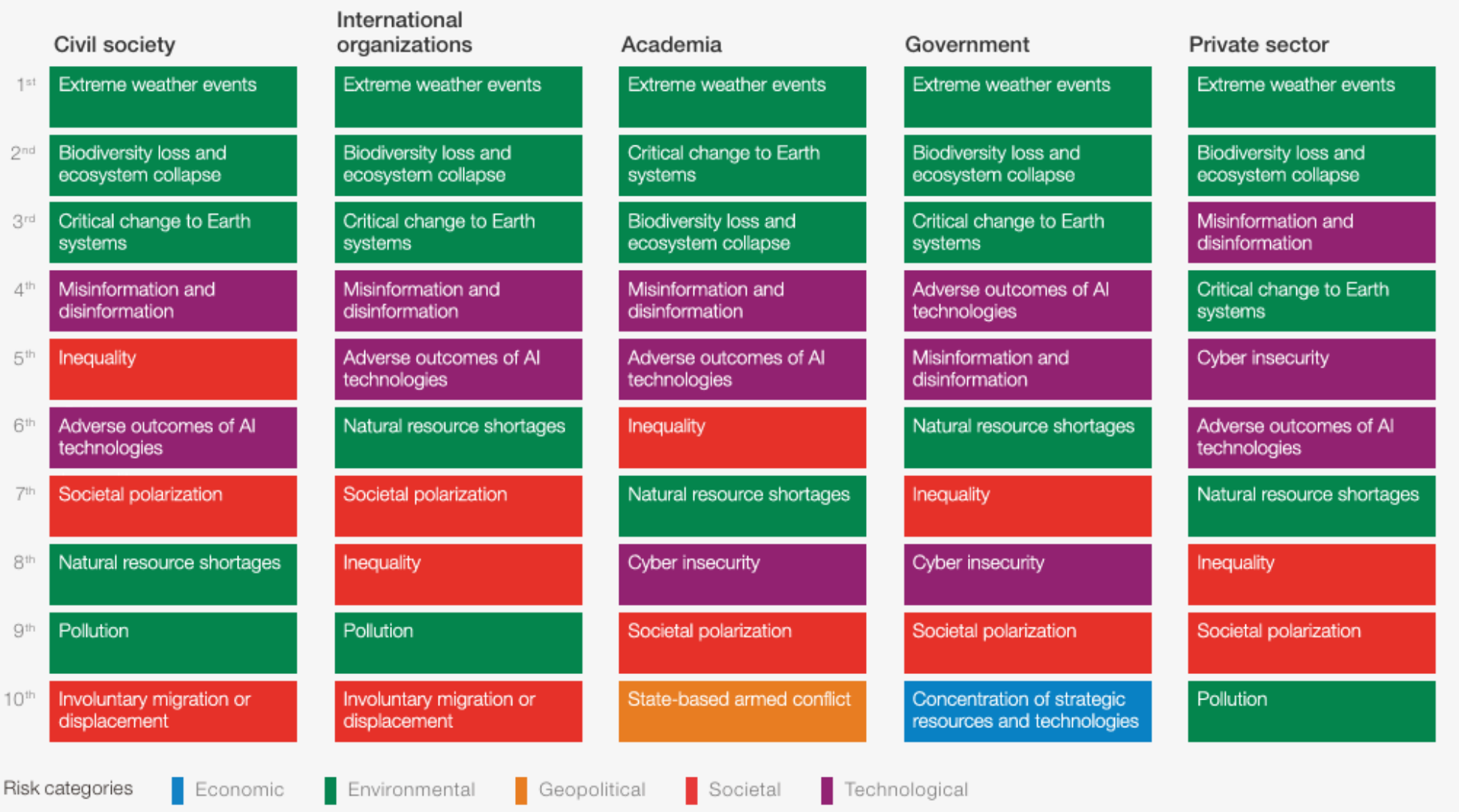


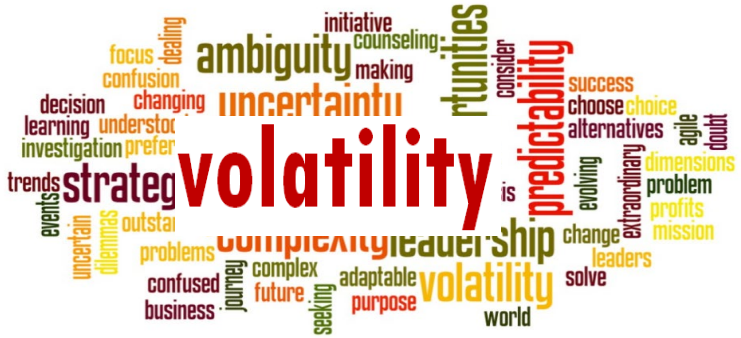


2026 Global Risks over short term (2 years)



Long term global risks (10 years)

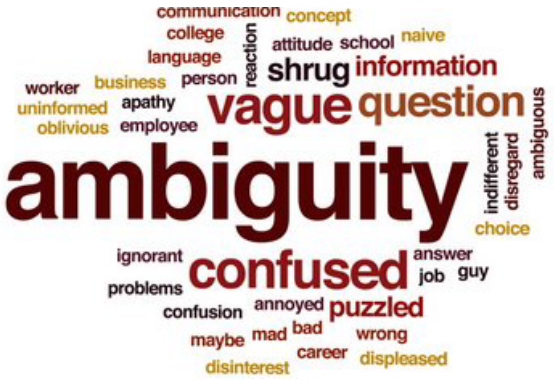



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The Economist
America's would-be king
Ruinous reciprocal tariffs
Meet Generation Hustle
China's Silicon Valley
FEBRUARY 22ND-28TH 2025
EUROPE'S WORST NIGHTMARE

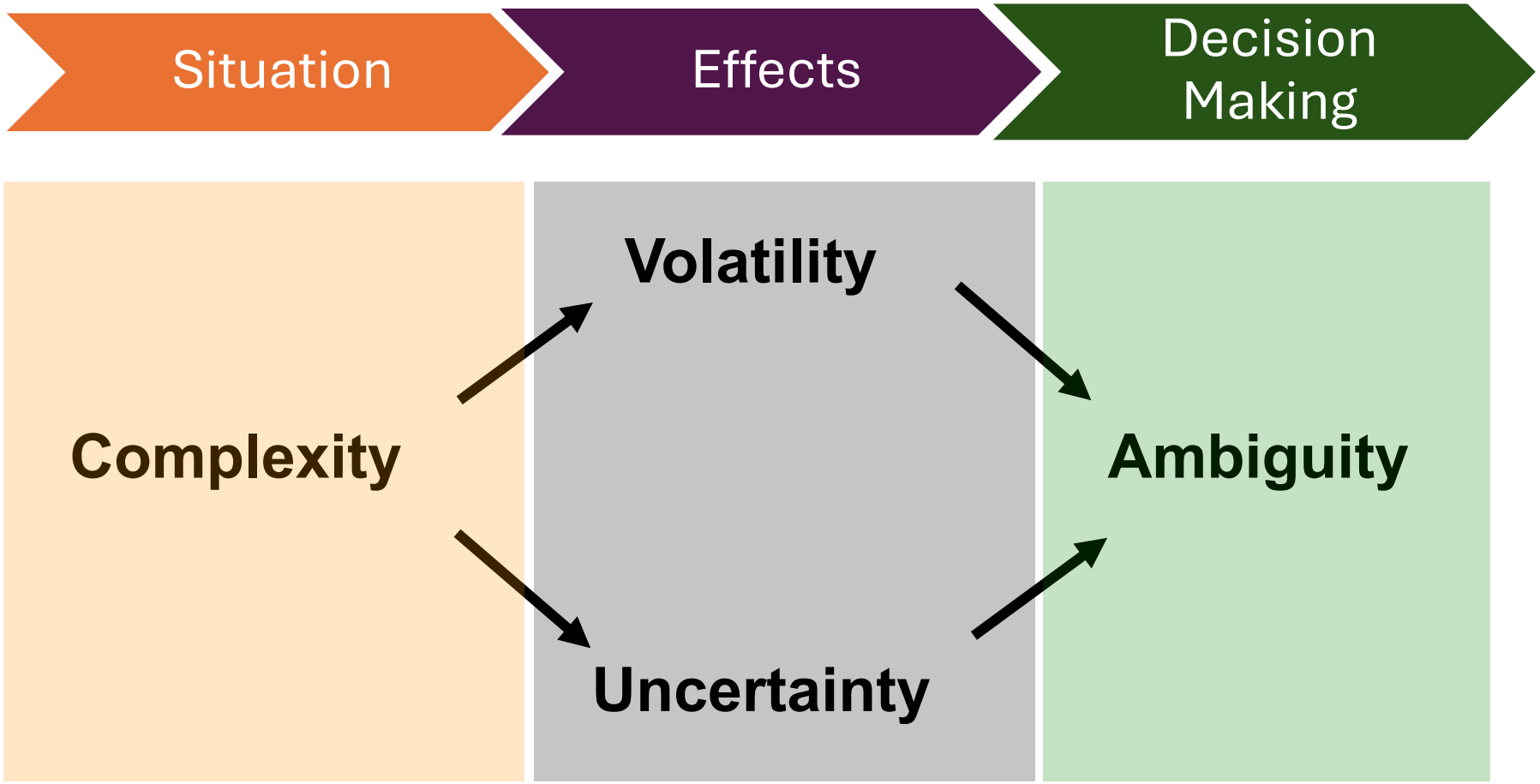

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The Economist
The new economics of immigration
Will the shooting stop in Ukraine?
The real lesson of China's latest AI
Jesus Christ: screen saviour
MARCH 15TH-21ST 2025
AMERICA'S NEW FOREIGN POLICY


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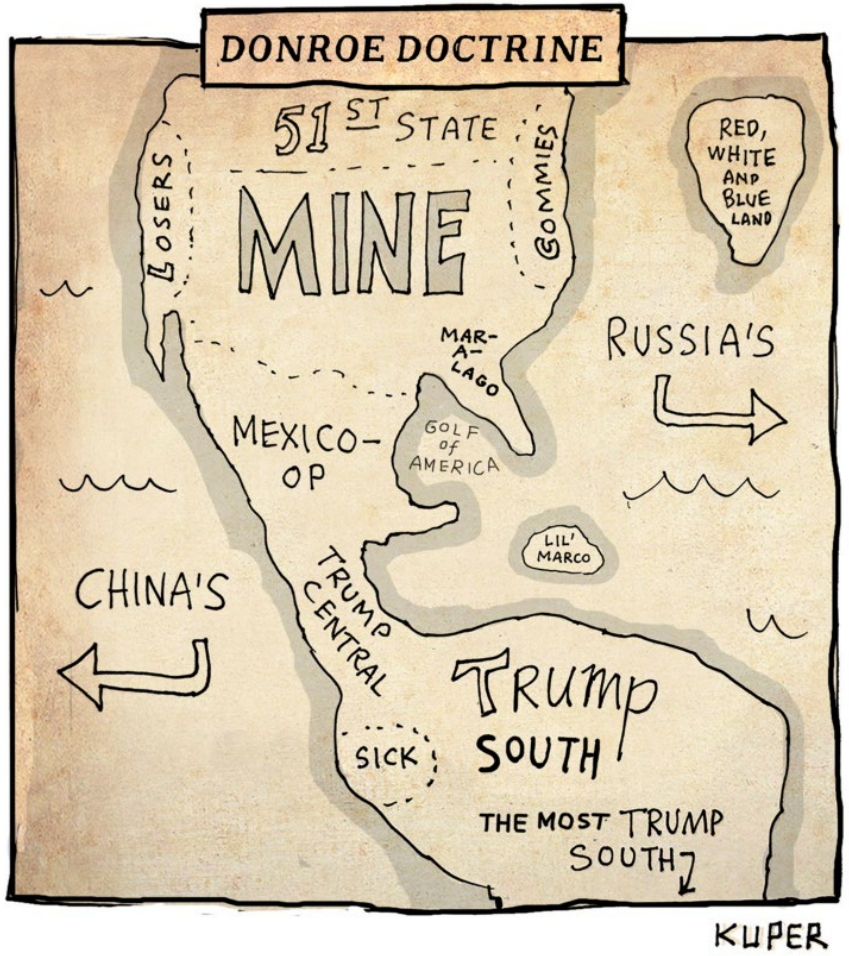

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How does VUCA work?



Trump 2.0: Venezuela, Donroe and Iran



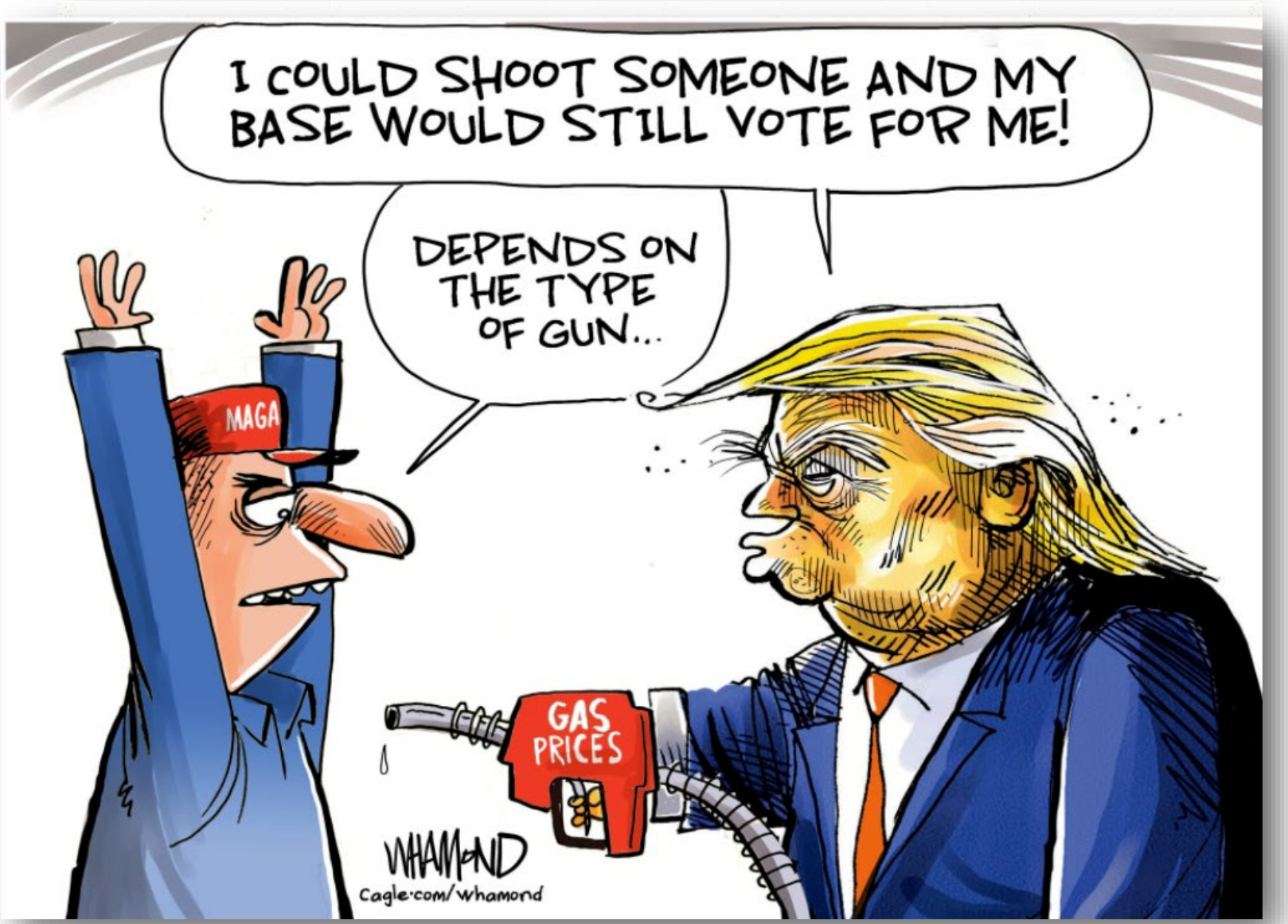


Trump 2.0: Iran and its impact



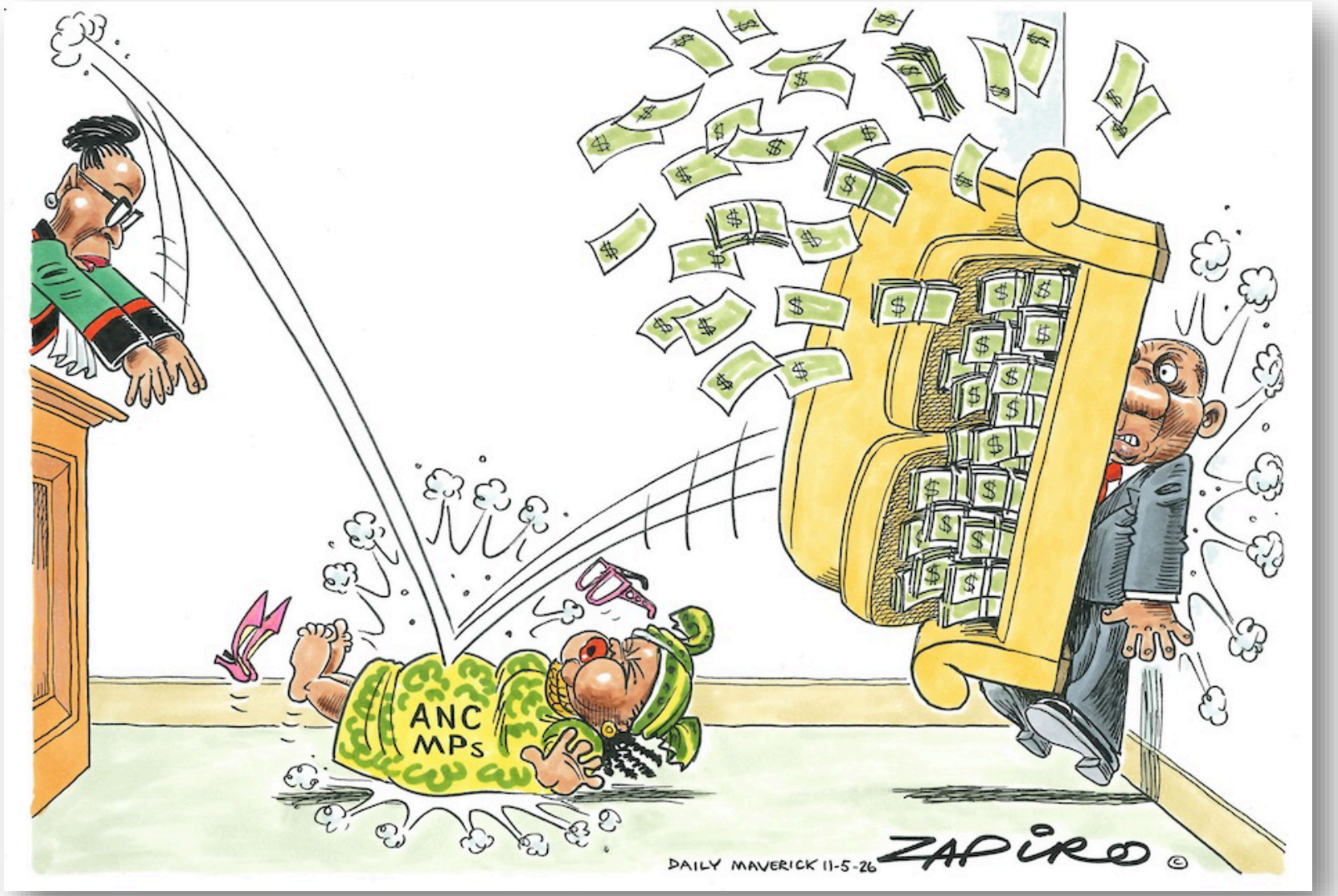






Globally farmers and agricultural producers have to manage a situation very similar to the Ukraine-Russia crisis:

- Dramatic increase in fuel costs and a very uncertain situation;
- Increase in fertilizer costs and availability;
- Global food prize uncertainty (Maize);
- 2025 penalizing tariffs still in the markets.
- Climate change as a reality.



The Phala Phala case:

- Parliament's action overturned;
- Impeachment case must be started again;
- Ramaphosa may take the Ngcobo Report on review.
- If successful the process stops.
- If Report is accepted chances on impeachment is zero.
- Even motion of no confidence improbable in the GNU context.



We now have to navigate a



cross-fire.....

Senate Votes to Take Up Measure to Force Trump to End Iran War

With four Republican backers, Democrats won a vote to advance a resolution that would force the president to end hostilities or win authorization from Congress.

Listen · 4:39 min

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The vote was 50 to 47 to advance the resolution, allowing it to be debated and receive a vote in the coming weeks. It was the eighth attempt by Democrats and a single Republican to rein in Mr. Trump's war powers since he began the military campaign, now in its third month, which a majority of Americans say he should never have launched.

Xi met with Trump and the with Putin



US-Israeli conflict with Iran 28 since Feb 2026: Is there an offramp?

Based on recent events in 2026, the United States, in coordination with Israel, launched major air strikes against Iran on February 28, 2026, which involved attacking multiple targets and resulted in the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Earlier, in June 2025, the U.S. had targeted Iranian nuclear facilities at Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan.

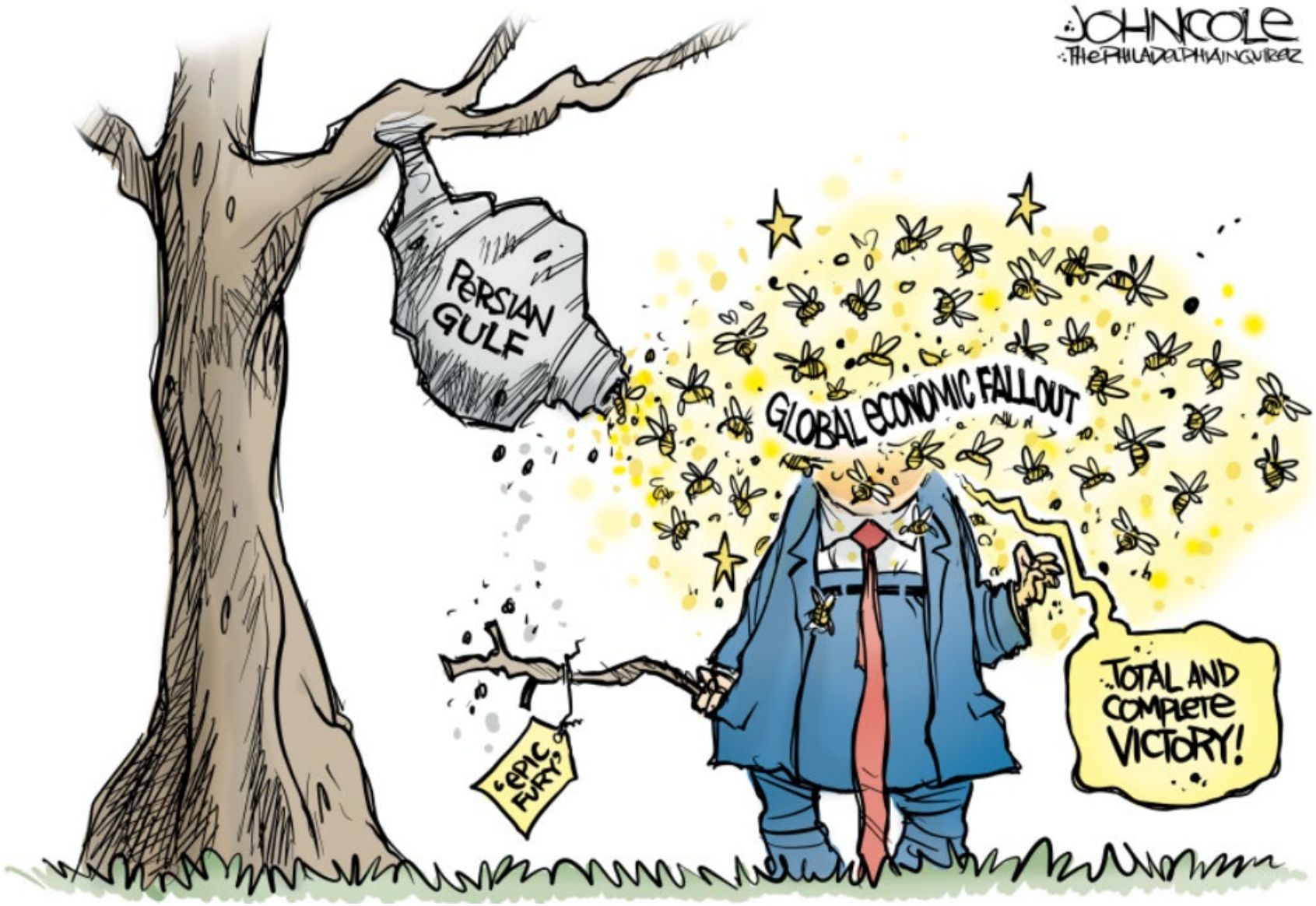
- Iran-Israel-USA history since 1978
- Trump-Netanyahu relationship – Was USA pulled in?
- Previous USA-Israel attack 2025
- Abraham Accord Peace process
- What is the interest of Israel, attack on Hezbollah in Lebanon
- What is the US agenda: Nuclear, Navy and missile capacity destroyed. Regime change?



- Impact of war on global oil trade as well as imports and exports to Gulf states through the **Street of Hormuz**
- Impact of Iran shooting drones and missiles on neighbouring countries
- Iran support to Hezbollah, Hamas and Houthi groups
- Iran reconstitute government under Khamenei (jr) with the Republican Guard in control
- Impact on Russia and Ukraine, China and India
- Type of war is changing with drones and missiles and protective domes becoming the norm in modern warfare

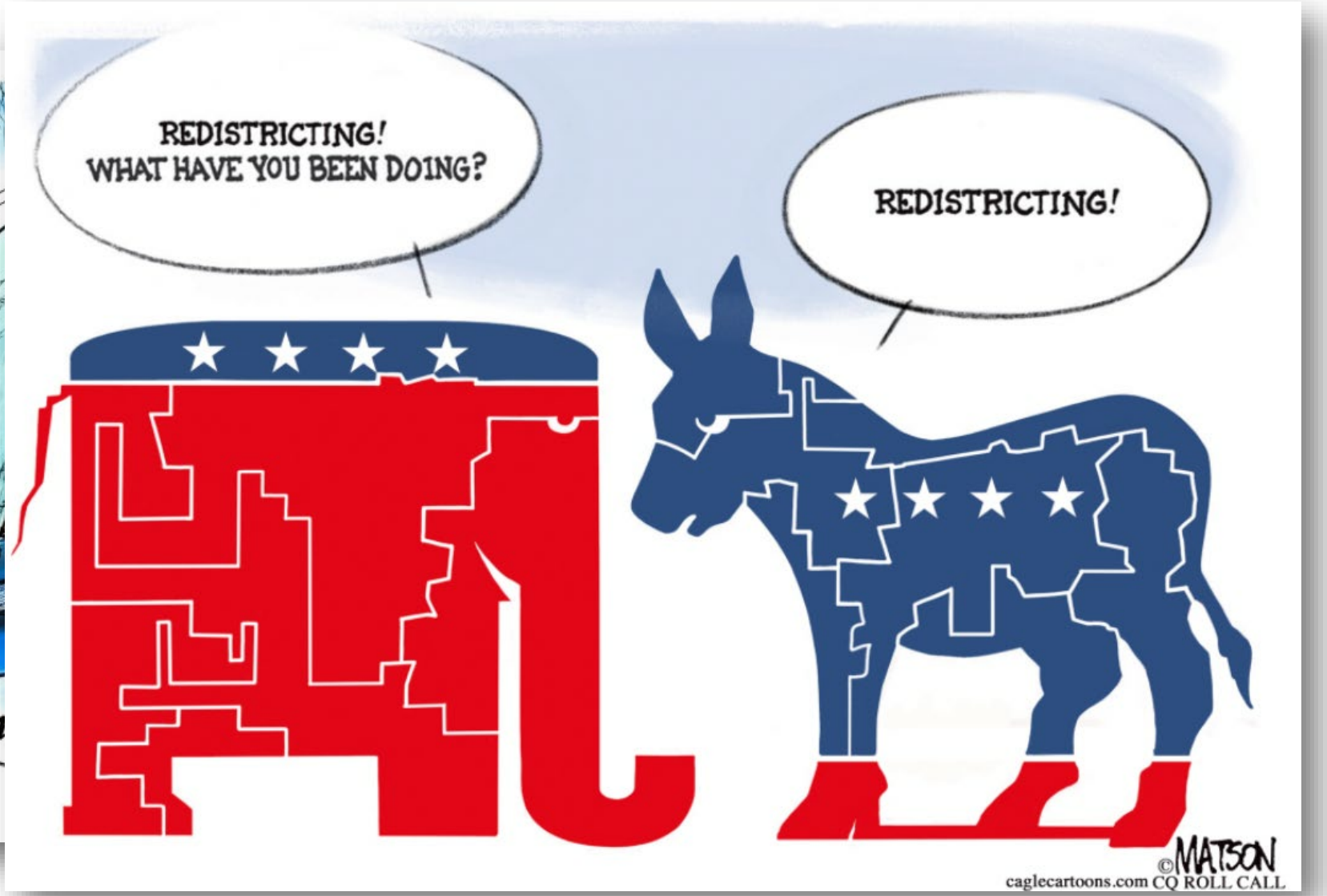
Four possible scenarios: (i) Unilateral Peace by US (ii) War continues for weeks unsettling global econmy (iii) Internal regime change – civil war (iv) Iranian government continues very much degraded with increased US hatred.

How to solve a problem

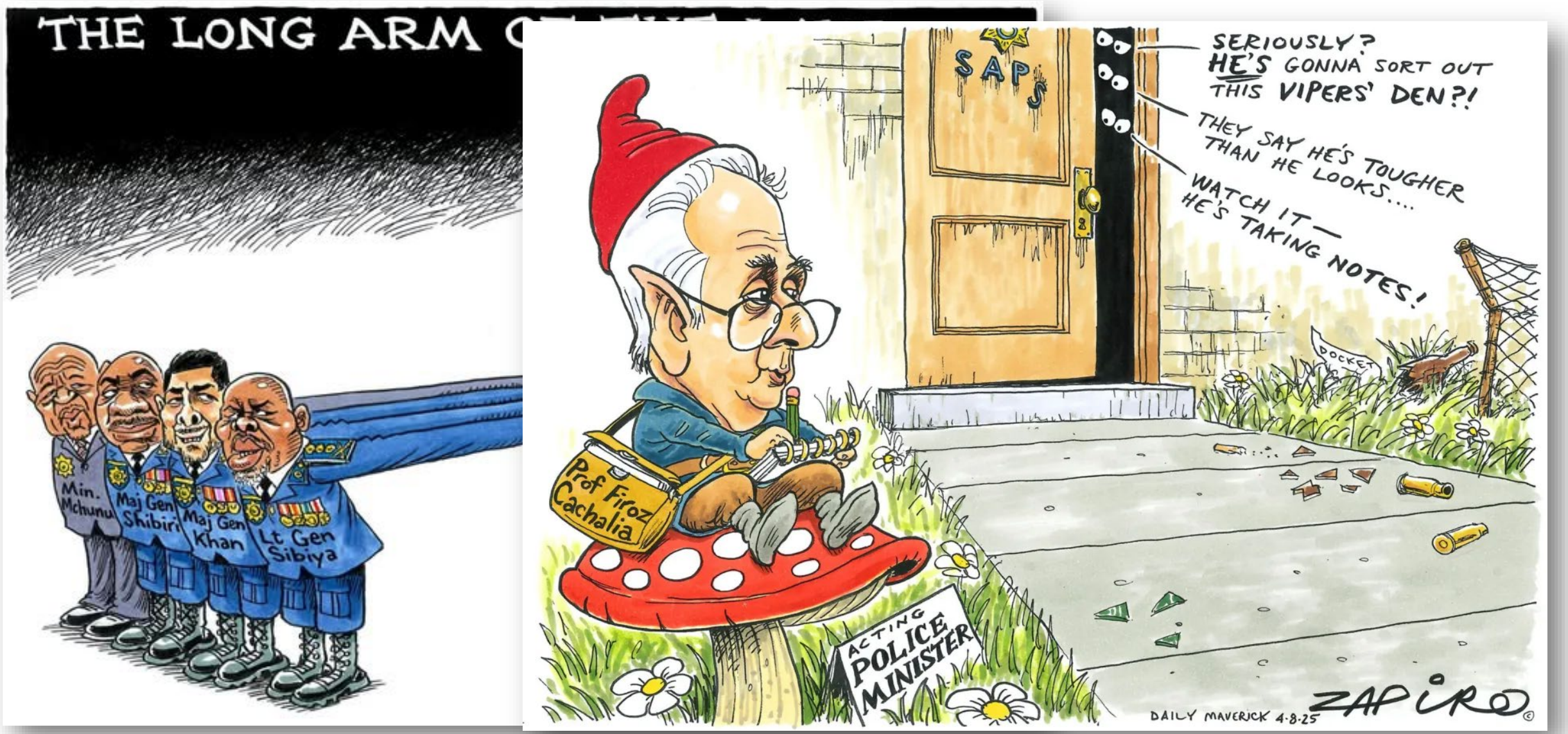


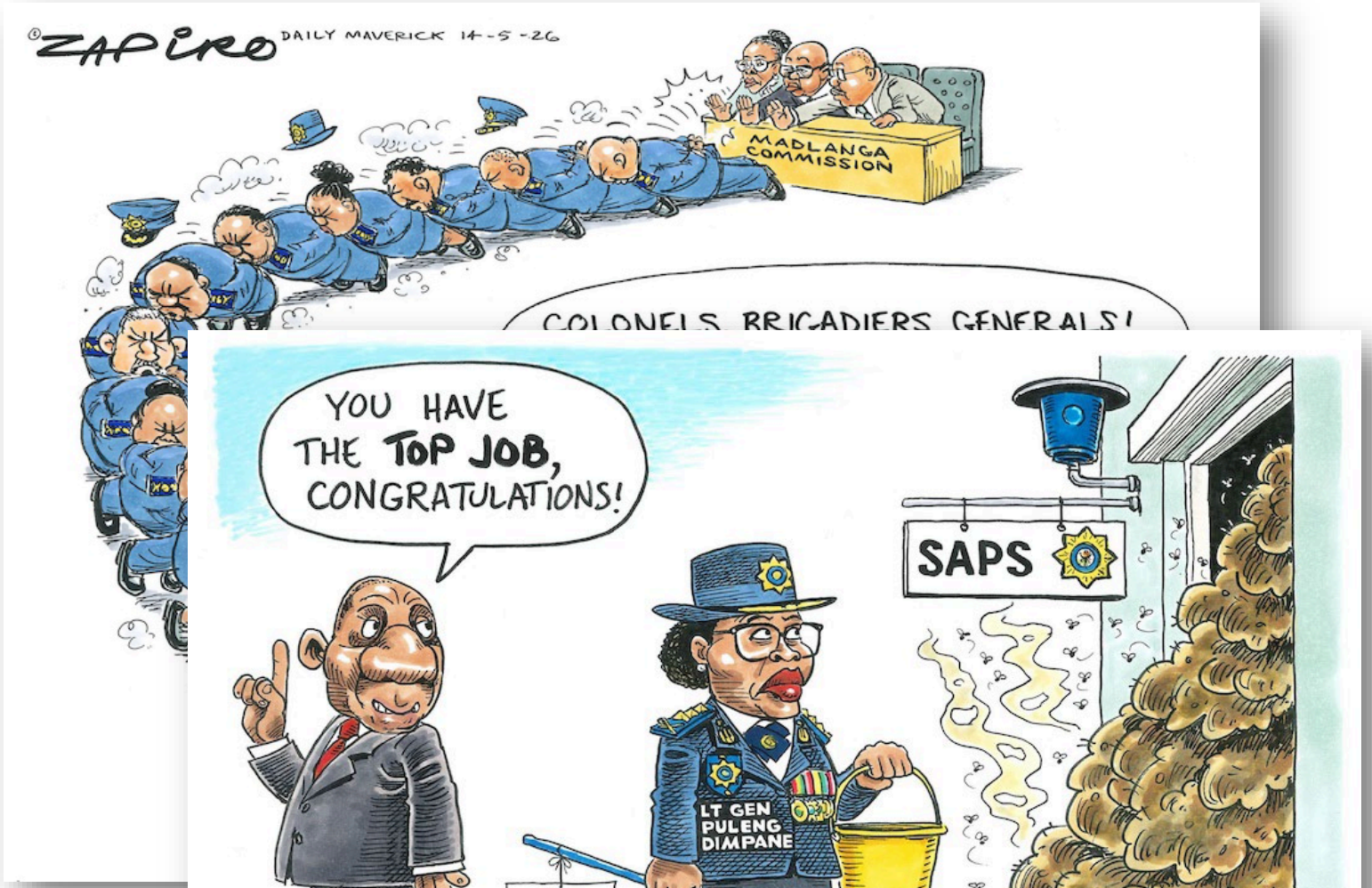
Trump 2.0: November Midterms





Madlanga Commission and Acting Minister of Police

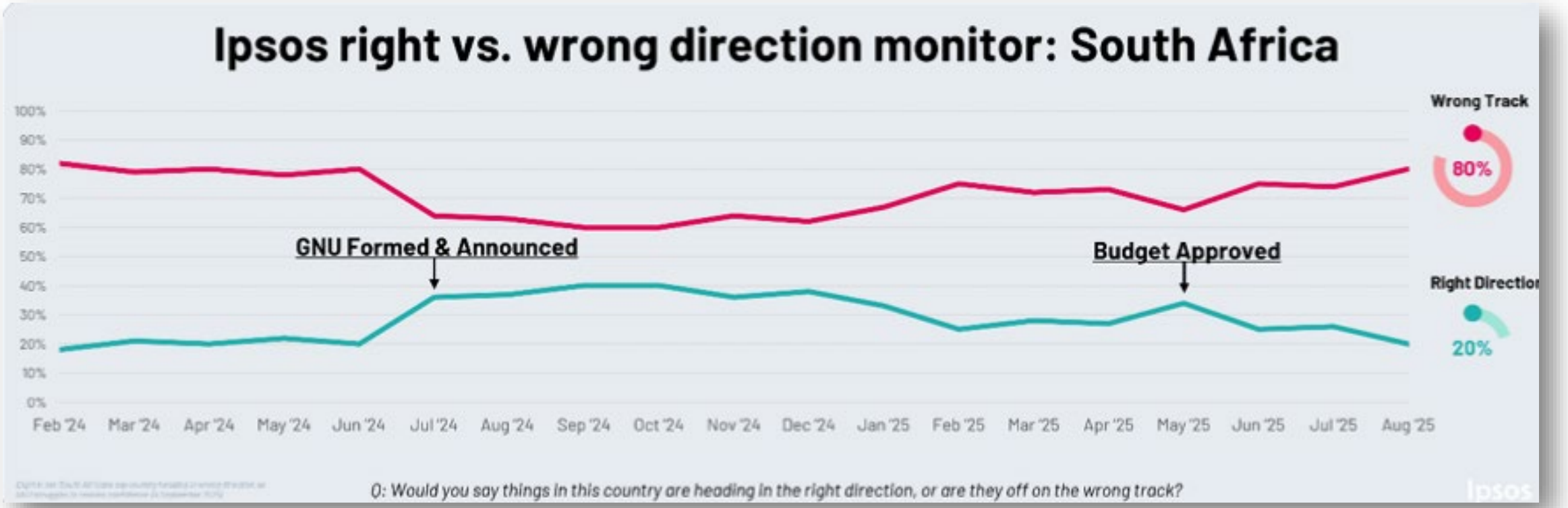




Madlanga Commission and Ad Hoc Committee:

- Very important interventions in terms of corruption and the SAPS;
- Min Mchunu will not return – Ambassador?
- SAPS in for serious restructuring;
- Madlanga filtering through to lower levels.
- Zondo at macro level corruption (State Capture) while Madlanga far more focussed.

Moving in the right or wrong direction



Ipsos: September 2025

Moving in the right or wrong direction

- The combination of poor municipal performance and strong public support for inter-party cooperation suggests the 2026-2027 local government elections could reshape South African politics at the grassroots level.
- Political parties that can demonstrate effective collaboration and efficient service delivery may find themselves rewarded by voters frustrated with decades of municipal failures.

Ipsos: September 2025

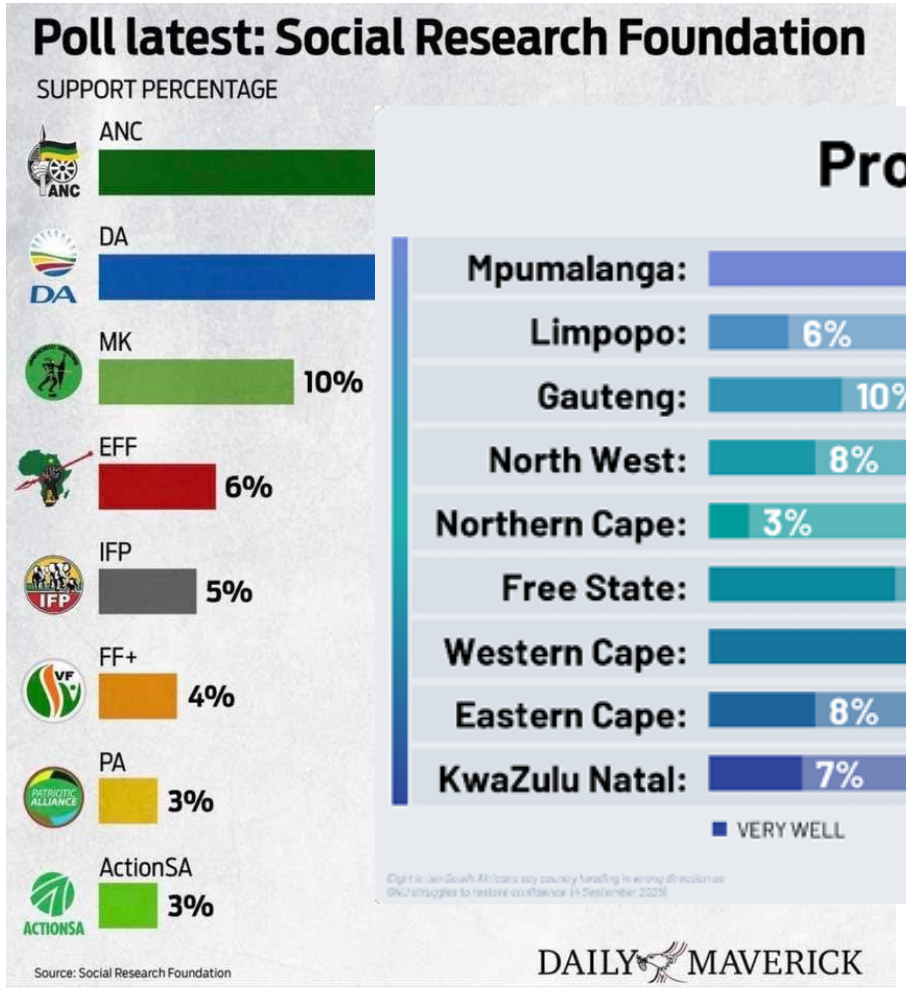
Importance of 2026 Local Government Election

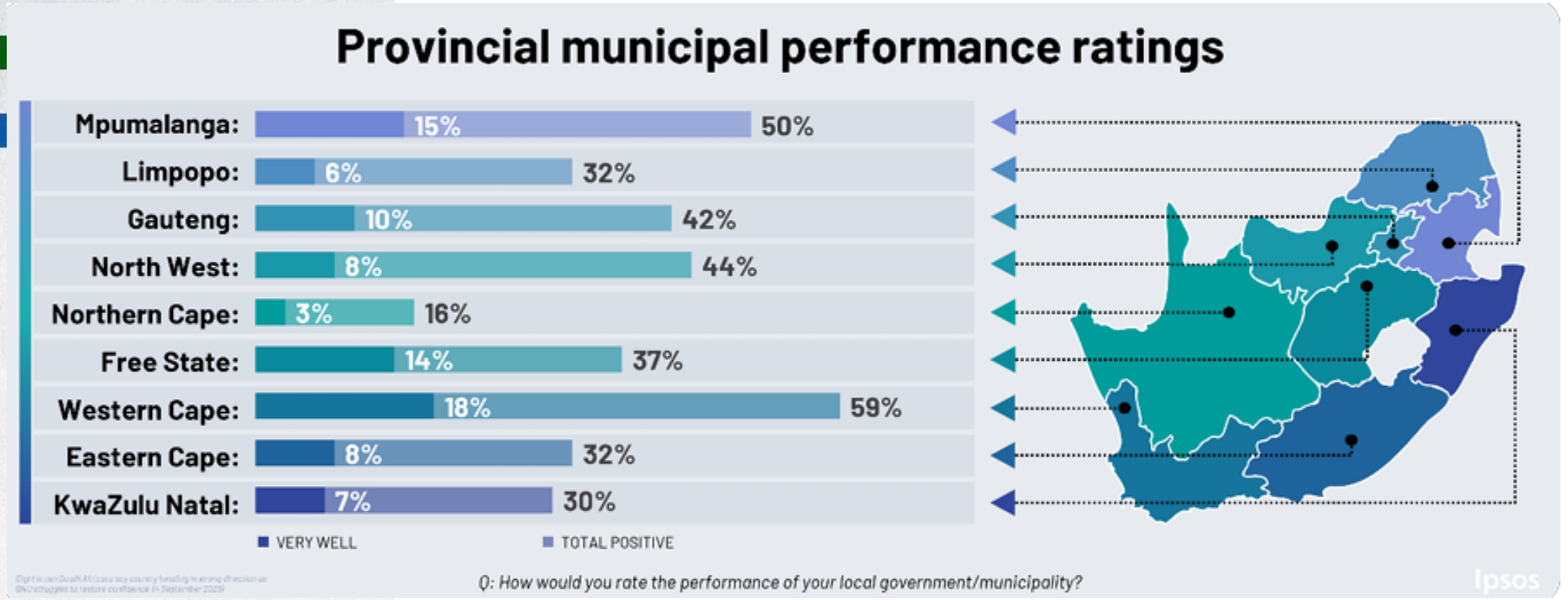
- The 2026 local government (municipal) elections in South Africa, scheduled for 4 November 2026.
- Councillors for all 8 metropolitan municipalities (metros), 205 local municipalities, and 40% of seats in 44 district municipalities.
- This is the first major electoral test since the 2024 national and provincial elections, which saw the ANC drop below 40%.
- The formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU), and the rapid rise of new players like MK Party.
- By-election trackers highlight ANC vulnerability, DA steadiness or gains, and momentum for newer/disruptor parties like MK, ActionSA and PA.
- Low turnout means results can swing on strong local campaigns, and national polls (e.g., Ipsos/SRF around early 2026) show ANC leading at ±38%, DA ±22%, with MK/EFF in the 12-14% range — suggesting continued fragmentation and likely coalitions.

Electoral patterns since 2024

- Recent patterns (2024–early 2026) show ANC decline continuing.
- The ANC has lost ground in many wards it previously held, with vote shares dropping significantly in some Gauteng, Eastern Cape, and other areas.
- Analysis of by-elections since 2021 projects ANC national support potentially falling to ~37% in 2026 (down from 45.6% in 2021 locals), aligning with its 2024 national drop and polling.
- It retains strongholds in some rural or traditional areas but struggles in urban/competitive wards.
- DA: Often consolidates or improves in Western Cape and some Gauteng wards, showing resilience.
- MK Party: Has taken wards from ANC, especially in KwaZulu-Natal.
- Patriotic Alliance (PA): Notable wins or strong showings, including flipping ANC wards (e.g., in Eastern Cape's Kou-Kamma).
- ActionSA: Explosive growth in targeted Gauteng and North West wards, sometimes halving ANC support or winning outright. It has tripled support in some Johannesburg wards.
- EFF has gained in spots, while independents occasionally win.

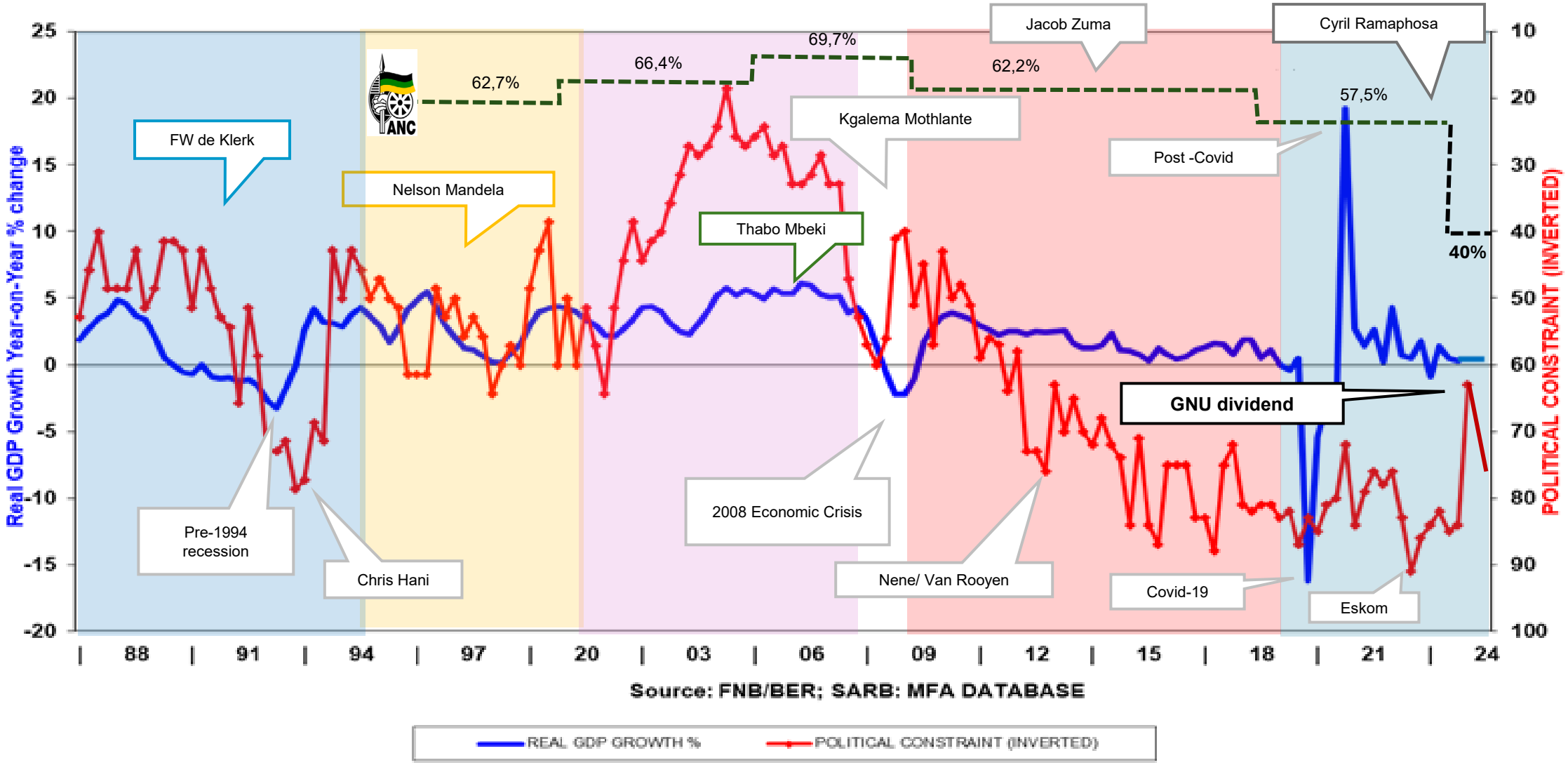
Party Political Support





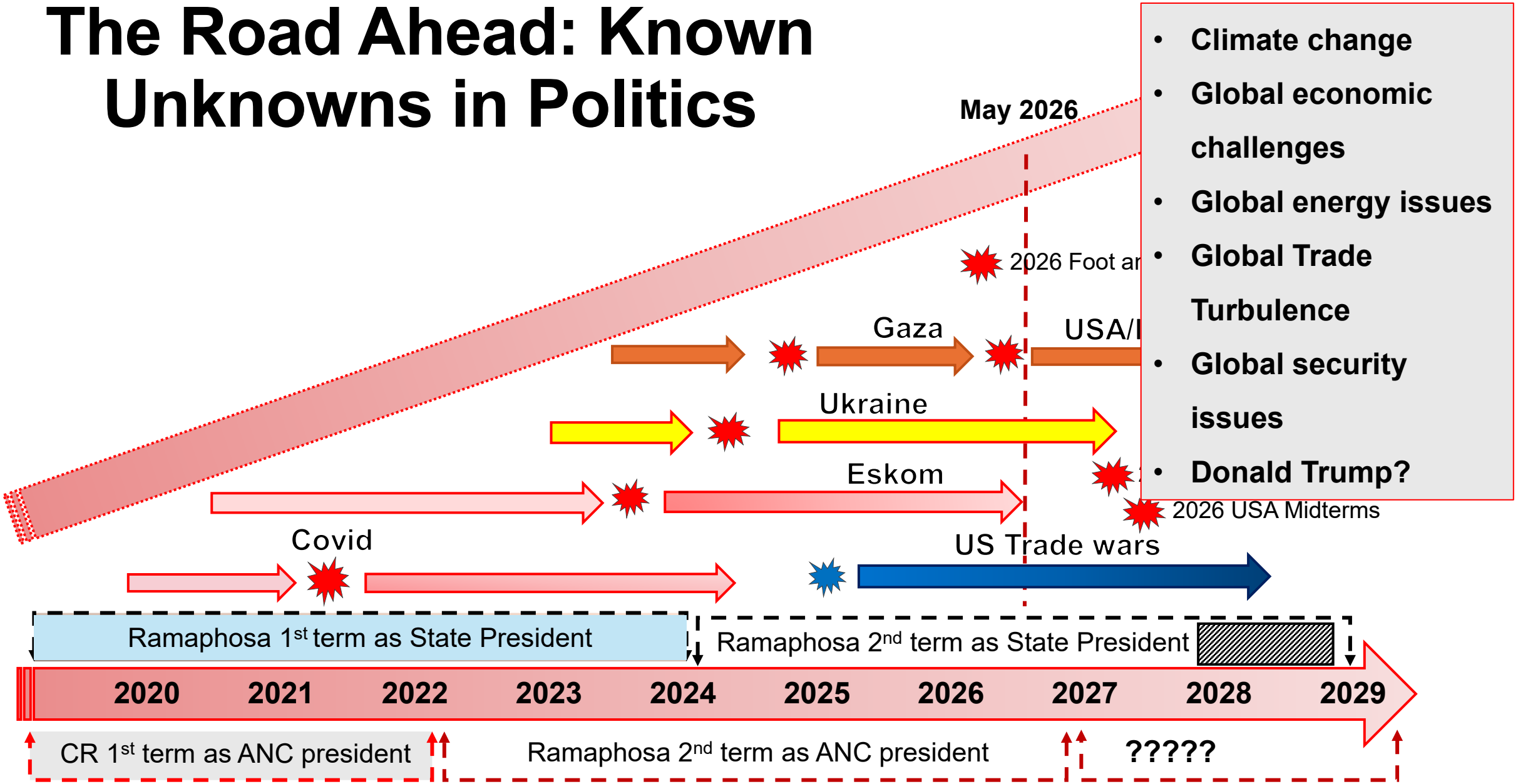
The Political and Economic nexus

Real Year-on-Year percentage GDP Growth and the Political Constraint



Special acknowledgement: Dr Johan Snyman & Henk Langenhoven

The Road Ahead: Known Unknowns in Politics



- Climate change
- Global economic challenges
- Global energy issues
- Global Trade Turbulence
- Global security issues
- Donald Trump?

Greeting FERTASA after more than 10 years of sharing my views! Now is the time for change!

