

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 7/3/2026) Solution

	¹ S	² P	I	³ R	E	⁴ D		⁵ B	E	⁶ M	U	⁷ S	E	
		A		A		R		O		U		P		
⁸	D	I	S	I	N	F	O	R	M	A	T	I	O	N
	E		S		K		P		B		I		O	⁹ I
¹⁰	R	I	P	P	E	R		¹¹ C	A	U	L	D	R	O
	O		O		D		¹² C		R		A			
¹³	G	U	R	U		¹⁴ C	R	E	D	I	T	A	¹⁵ B	L
	A		T		¹⁶ E		U		I		E		A	N
¹⁷	T	A	S	K	M	A	S	T	E	R		¹⁸ F	L	A
	O				E		T		R		¹⁹ N		L	I
²⁰	R	E	²¹ F	E	R	R	A	L		²² R	O	M	A	N
	Y		L		G		C		²³ P		T		D	N
		²⁴ L	A	T	E	D	E	V	E	L	O	P	E	R
			K		N		A		E		U		E	
	²⁵ W	E	N	T	I	N		²⁶ R	E	T	U	R	N	

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 SPIRED	One after special wine, like a church, possibly (6)	(I after SP) + RED
5 BEMUSE	Be first to make and run through puzzle (6)	BE + (M)ake + USE
8 DISINFORMATION	Misleading report is available for covering one kidnapped by mafia boss (14)	(IS + IN + FOR + MAT + I) inside DON
10 RIPPER	Strong, current member of parliament knocked back fine thing (6)	RIP + (REP reversed)
11 CAULDRON	Head of cannibal left in a moulded round boiler (8)	(C)annibal + L inside (A + anagram of ROUND)
13 GURU	Wig worn the wrong way by university master (4)	RUG reversed + U
14 CREDITABLE	Right to make corrections in TV service is deserving (10)	(R + EDIT) inside CABLE
17 TASKMASTER	Disciplinarian adjusted mask in preview (10)	Anagram of MASK inside TASTER
18 FLAT	Smooth contents of decaf latte (4)	deacF LATte
20 REFERRAL	Fellow to miss the mark in actual recommendation (8)	(F + ERR) inside REAL
22 ROMANO	Type of tomato served with no cheese (6)	ROMA + NO
24 LATE DEVELOPERS	People with hidden potential do repeat levels in the wrong sequence (4,10)	Anagram of DO REPEAT LEVELS
25 WENT IN	Sort of new corrugated iron was installed (4,2)	Anagram of NEW + TIN
26 RETURN	Extraordinary run-rate reduced by a fielding effort (6)	Anagram of RUNRATE minus A

