

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 31/1/2026) Solution

¹ L	I	² V	E	³ R	S	⁴ P	O	⁵ T			⁶ K	⁷ A	V	⁸ A
I		I		A		O		E		⁹ F		G		N
¹⁰ G	U	E	S	T		¹¹ T	R	A	G	E	D	I	A	N
H		T		E		A		K		R		T		O
¹² T	O	N	A	L	I	T	Y		¹³ V	A	C	A	N	T
S		A				O		¹⁴ A		L		T		A
		¹⁵ M	E	¹⁶ D	I	C	I	N	E	C	H	E	S	T
¹⁷ O				W		H		T		A				E
¹⁸ P	R	¹⁹ I	M	E	M	I	N	I	S	T	E	²⁰ R		
E		N		L		P		S				E		²¹ C
²² R	U	T	I	L	E		²³ R	E	P	²⁴ R	I	S	A	L
E		E		I		²⁵ D		P		E		I		I
²⁶ T	U	N	I	N	G	O	U	T		²⁷ S	I	D	L	E
T		S		G		W		I		I		U		N
²⁸ A	M	E	N			²⁹ N	O	C	O	N	T	E	S	T

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 LIVER SPOT	Skin blemish that's usually brown or silver, disfigured large belly (5,4)	Anagram of SILVER + POT
6 KAVA	Some drink, a Vanuatuan beverage (4)	drinK A VAnuatuan
10 GUEST	Visitor took a shot in the dark reportedly (5)	Sounds like GUESSED
11 TRAGEDIAN	Actor partied hard with one sporting buff (9)	(RAGED + I) inside TAN
12 TONALITY	Plaything, inscribed with a translation of Latin, is key (8)	Anagram of LATIN inside TOY
13 VACANT	Empty vessel stored in another (6)	CAN inside VAT
15 MEDICINE CHEST	Senior journalist, in view of nice chemist, maligned drug store (8,5)	ED inside anagram of NICE CHEMIST
18 PRIME MINISTER	Leader's formal dress worn in compound (5,8)	PRIM + (MINI inside ESTER)
22 RUTILE	Form containing titanium? (6)	RULE outside TI
23 REPRISAL	Public relations is limited by actual retaliation (8)	(PR + IS) inside REAL
26 TUNING OUT	Fanatic, regressing during disease, is losing interest (6,3)	NUT returned + IN + GOUT
27 SIDLE	Creep is left in team (5)	L inside SIDE
28 AMEN	Your Grace's ending change? Not entirely (4)	(AMEN)d
29 NO CONTEST	Plea by prisoner put back on trial (2,7)	CON reversed + ON + TEST

[illegible]