

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 27/6/2026) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 RUBBLE	Two billion collected by government remains (6)	BB inside RULE
4 PROTESTS	Objects and worthless stuff carried by troublesome people (8)	ROT inside PESTS
9 METHAMPHETAMINE	Ice, say, received with meat the pieman ordered (15)	MET + HAM + anagram of THE PIEMAN
11 ALL HEART	A judge transporting two learners back to court is generous (3,5)	(A + HEAR) outside LL + cour(T)
12 TABLED	Governed after the bill is put forward (6)	LED after TAB
14 TO-DO	Period in retreat before start of outrageous excitement (2-2)	DOT reversed + (O)utrageous
15 PLAINTIFFS	They're seen in court contesting ordinary arguments (10)	PLAIN + TIFFS
18 LONELINESS	Solitude is not so much about one with nothing in retirement (10)	LESS outside [ONE + (NIL reversed)]
19 KNEE	Passengers in shock needed a joint (4)	shocK NEEDED
22 NUANCE	Subtlety is lacking in person who's obnoxious (6)	NUISANCE minus IS
24 PLEADERS	Quiet people who guide advocates (8)	P + LEADERS
26 INSURANCE POLICY	Sort of preclusion limiting an indifferent contract that offers protection (9,6)	Anagram of PRECLUSION outside AN + ICY
27 GO TO SEED	Degenerate experienced overdose outside court (2,2,4)	GOT + (OD outside SEE)
28 WEDGED	Wide, hit with the outside part of the bat, is blocked (6)	W + EDGED

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 REMNANT	A small number surviving division infiltrated by corrupt man (7)	RENT outside anagram of MAN
2 BATTLED ON	Insulator, deceived, struggled to succeed (7,2)	BATT + LED ON
3 LEADER	News reel turned up containing advertisement (6)	REEL reversed outside AD
5 RHEA	Bird poacher scrambled free of cop (4)	Anagram of POACHER minus COP
6 TEA PARTY	Pate dished out before stylish social gathering (3,5)	Anagram of PATE + ARTY
7 STILL	Source of alcohol (not sparkling) (5)	Double Definition
8 SPEEDOS	Swimmers so far below the surface returned after minutes finally (7)	(SO + DEEP) reversed after minute(S)
10 PARKLAND	Place containing old animal sanctuary and nature reserve (8)	PL outside ARK + AND
13 DISSOLVE	Break down loss mounting in disreputable club (8)	LOSS reversed inside DIVE
16 FINGERING	Identifying fine wool for knitting (9)	Double Definition
17 PLACARDS	Public notices "P" on front of vehicle owned by young men (8)	P + (CAR inside LADS)
18 LINKING	Connecting line cut off with ruler (7)	(LIN)e + KING
20 ESSAYED	Judges say, editor to a certain degree, tried (7)	judgES SAY EDitor
21 CAPONE	Beat one famous gangster (6)	CAP + ONE
23 ASSET	It's well worth having when ready (5)	AS + SET
25 ONCE	An area of concern in the old days (4)	cONCErn