

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 25/4/2026) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 WESTERNS	Movies strangely weren't screening Saturday and Sunday (8)	Anagram of WERENT outside S + S
5 CASH UP	Remains in competition to work out money taken (4,2)	ASH inside CUP
10 GOVERNMENT ISSUE	Displaced men get souvenirs provided by the authorities (10,5)	Anagram of MEN GET SOUVENIRS
11 RUN THE SHOW	Small person - he has manner to take charge (3,3,4)	RUNT + HES + HOW
12 MESS	Superstar football player losing out on final spot (4)	MESSI minus I
14 FELONS	Guys carrying on for low criminals (6)	FEL(ON for LOW)S
15 MOORHEN	Bird, a tailless bird, detected in range of satellite (7)	RHE(a) inside MOON
18 PENDENT	Writer, to make a small impression, is leaning over (7)	PEN + DENT
20 TREATY	Formal agreement to address hunger secured by judge (6)	EAT inside TRY
21 NAME	Call retired fellow before heading to England (4)	MAN reversed + (E)ngland
23 SPECIALIST	Moulded plastic is probed by energy expert (10)	Anagram of PLASTIC IS outside E
26 TANTANOOLA TIGER	Fabulous cat (brown lion) ate goat mutilated close to river (10,5)	TAN + anagram of LION ATE GOAT + R
27 RESCUE	Save time leaving rest with pool stick (6)	REST minus T + CUE
28 DREDGERS	They are employed to dig out drive with gardening tools (8)	DR + EDGERS

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 WAGER	Put money on period of time needed in setting of world record (5)	AGE inside WR
2 SEVENTEEN	A number less than may be visited about incident (9)	SEEN outside EVENT
3 EARTHMOVER	The army mostly worked with accomplished digger, say (10)	Anagram of (THE ARM)y + OVER
4 NEMESIS	Great rival is after recalled seed (7)	IS after (SEMEN reversed)
6 AVID	Passionate biblical king beheaded (4)	(d)AVID
7 HASTE	Expedition features team reduced by half (5)	HAS + TE(am)
8 PHEASANT	Game bird scattered heaps created by insect (8)	Anagram of HEAPS + ANT
9 INFORM	Pass on knowledge to residents of cabin for money? (6)	cabIN FOR Money
13 FORECASTED	Expected call from errant golfer distracted cadets (10)	FORE + anagram of CADETS
16 HIT SINGLE	Sex appeal described in version of English popular song (3,6)	IT inside anagram of ENGLISH
17 SPINSTER	Single lady turns heads of teenagers, executives and retirees (8)	SPINS + (T)eenagers + (E)xecutives + (R)etirees
19 TIPTOP	Excellent suggestion about progressive instruction given by writer (6)	TIP outside PTO
20 TICKLER	Puzzle perfectionist lacking in originality? (7)	(s)TICKLER
22 MINUS	Weakness in America after opening of markets (5)	(IN + US) after (M)arkets
24 TARTS	Tangy topping of special flans (5)	TART + (S)pecial
25 OAHU	Part of Borneo, a huge island in the Pacific (4)	borneO A HUge