

# AFR Cryptic (Saturday 3/5/2025) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 BASTARDISE	A celebrity, found in bed, is awfully corrupt (10)	(A + STAR) inside anagram of BED IS
6 CARD	Joker, perhaps, in more ways than one (4)	Double Definition
10 OPERATING SYSTEM	Crook paying store to hold back essential software (9,6)	Anagram of PAYING STORE + STEM
11 ALOE VERA	Love area developed with a commercially-viable plant (4,4)	Anagram of LOVE AREA
12 ASHEN	White, like a bird (5)	AS + HEN
14 ONIONS	Switch position is covering working bulbs (6)	(ON + IS) outside ON
16 SEMITONE	Clocks rewound by one half step (8)	TIMES reversed + ONE
18 SEDATELY	Prince's last engagement held in secret without fanfare (8)	[princ(E) + DATE] inside SLY
20 ENTICE	Lead on silver not used by agent with diamonds (6)	AGENT minus AG + ICE
22 INGOT	Piece of precious metal found behind home (5)	GOT after IN
24 BENGALIS	Scottish mountain girl is with people in Asia (8)	BEN + GAL + IS
27 PERSONA NON GRATA	Agent recalled son, a fool, deserter, and a character not liked (7,3,5)	REP reversed + SON + A + NONG + RAT + A
28 REEF	Section of tree found with rocks under water (4)	tREE Found
29 HYPNOTISTS	Python sits in odd positions, mesmerising people (10)	Anagram of PYTHON SITS

<b>Down</b>	<b>Clue</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
1 BLOC	Stop mostly countries in special alliance (4)	(BLOC)k
2 SPELLBIND	Hold and shift bin back to yard (9)	SPELL + BIN + yar(D)
3 ABATE	A cricketer close to milestone is slow (5)	A + BAT + mileston(E)
4 DRIVEL	Bull left after steer (6)	L after DRIVE
5 SIGNAGE	Drug gang is fed up with public displays (7)	(E + GANG + IS) reversed
7 AITCH	Character may be a source of irritation (5)	A + ITCH
8 DOMINEERED	Buck's mate, embarrassed about explosive item, behaved arrogantly (10)	(DOE + RED) outside MINE
9 GYRATION	Heartless guy helping revolution? (8)	G(u)Y + RATION
13 WORSHIPPER	One who praises line set up by transport company (10)	ROW reversed + SHIPPER
15 NOTATION	System of signs reverted to in race (8)	TO reverse inside NATION
16 SAY	Timeless suspension, for instance? (3)	STAY minus T
17 ORIGINALS	Masters manipulate one limited by tailored loans (9)	(RIG + I) inside anagram of LOANS
19 LIBRARY	House readily emptied out a collection of books? (7)	LIBRA + R(eadil)Y
21 ENJOIN	Appreciate substantially popular order (6)	(ENJO)y + IN
23 GORSE	Prickly shrub is starting to grow next to rambling rose (5)	(G)row + anagram of ROSE
25 ANGST	Fear an income generator imposed by government (5)	AN + GST
26 CARS	Vehicles are mostly parked in vacated centres? (4)	(AR)e inside C(entre)S