

Food & Water Security in South Africa WEEKLY MONITOR: 13 January - 20 January 2017

Prepared by Augustus Consulting

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1.0 Key Weekly Trends, Themes and Issues

- **Western Cape fires devastate farming amid drought**
- **South Africa Poultry industry crisis deepens amid influx of cheap chicken quarters amid reports that Rainbow Chicken alone will cut 1 350 jobs at the end January**
- **Department of Trade and Industry responds to Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema demand to impose a 50% tariff on imported chicken to safeguard the domestic poultry industry against dumping from overseas producers, and to protect local jobs**
- **Water is still scarce as drought crisis deepens in South Africa with dam levels around the country standing at an average of 50.7%.; with Vaal Dam 52.8% full while Cape Town dams levels sit at 44.3%, with residents using too much water – 59 million litres more than the city’s daily quota**
- **Water scarcity takes heavy toll on Mpumalanga pupils amid escalation in illegal pipe connections in the province**
- **Farm murders surge in South Africa as elderly couple killed on West Rand farm in Gauteng**
- **Free State town holds service in Gauteng to pray for rain as drought takes its toll**
- **Opposition party Democratic Alliance calls for action from Parliament in wake of a farm murder of an elderly couple on West Rand farm in Gauteng**
- **City of Cape Town set to cash in on water restriction penalties as it bills ratepayers over R33-million more than what they had expected for the months of November and December 2016**
- **Cape Town water inspectorate consisting of 51 officials intensifies efforts to curb water wastage as residents exceed the daily water usage target of 800 million litres of water**
- **Better agricultural season expected by farmers in the Free State**

- **South African motorists warned to brace for more petrol price surge amid slow economic growth**
- **ANC pushes for expropriation of land as agrarian reform process stalls**
- **New 'use it or lose it' land policy looms in South Africa as the land crisis deepens**
- **Vaal Dam water levels surge to 59.15% but drought not yet over**
- **IMF warns that South Africa's growth will remain subdued as political and economic woes mount**
- **Economic strain become more pronounced in South Africa as political and economic uncertainty increases**
- **ANC pushes South Africa to abandon the willing-buyer willing seller principle as the land crisis continues to grip the country**
- **South Africa's housing market under pressure amid spike in unemployment and consumer indebtedness**
- **Land to take centre-stage at the ANC policy conference in June**
- **South Africa's controversial chicken imports have benefited the poor**
- **Cape Town is using 90-million litres of water a day above targeted savings as drought bites in South Africa**
- **IMF flags South Africa's skills shortage as economy struggles**
- **Armyworms ravages maize crop in drought-hit Southern Africa as food prices soar**
- **Renewed optimism in the agricultural sector in South Africa after the recent rains**
- **Growing concern as Cape Town dam levels dip as drought bites**
- **Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa acknowledges that South Africa's economy is struggling**
- **South Africa mining production lower than expected amid slow growth**
- **EU chicken import duty increase likely as South Africa attempts to protect its ailing poultry industry**
- **Decline in South Africa's mining output projected to hit GDP hard**
- **Rand Water workers down tools amid wage dispute**
- **South Africa's inflation soars to 6.8% in December as food prices soar**

- **Growing optimism in South Africa's agricultural sector as farmers plant more maize this season after recent rains**
- **Water quality under threat as Cape Town's dam levels plunge amid drought**
- **Consumer inflation picks up pace amid slow economic growth**
- **South Africa food, drinks prices rise as inflation increases to 6.8% – above target**
- **Rainfall prospects projected to improve in drought-hit Western Cape in the near-future**
- **South Africa may be downgraded to junk status due to political risk and low growth**
- **More protests on the cards in South Africa amid slow growth and increasing political uncertainty**
- **Slow growth predicted for South Africa's truck industry as political and economic problems increase**
- **South Africa scrambles as R100bn in welfare threatened, putting millions of social grants recipients at risk**
- **Consumer confidence dives as bleak outlook hits South African households amid spike in food prices due to drought**
- **South African dairy company Clover struggles as drought bites**
- **South Africa trade conditions improve despite growing challenges**
- **Retail sales surprise with much stronger rise than expected**
- **South Africa economy poised for growth, and a stable repo rate in 2017**
- **South African households develop new coping mechanisms as food prices soar due to drought**
- **Gauteng province water restrictions continue despite rising dam levels**
- **Sharp increases in poultry meat prices push the Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) higher amid persistent drought**
- **Tough new water restrictions for Cape Town as drought ravages Western Cape**
- **Cape Town only has enough water stored 'for the next 100 days' as the drought bites**
- **Recent rains in South Africa fail to wash away farmers' worries**
- **Low consumer confidence set to hurt retailers as economic growth slows in South Africa**

- **AgriSA announces that South African maize farmers are prepared for the armyworms that are currently plaguing neighbouring countries**
- **South Africa's ailing water infrastructure affects Lower Oliphants River water supply in Western Cape**

1.1 Food Security

1.1.1 Western Cape fires devastate farming amid drought

On 13 January, *Eyewitness News* reported that advocacy group Agri-Wes Cape says the recent fires in parts of the Western Cape have had a devastating impact on agricultural land.¹

1.1.2 South Africa Poultry industry crisis deepens amid influx of cheap chicken quarters amid reports that Rainbow Chicken alone will cut 1 350 jobs at the end January

On 15 January 2017, *City Press* reported that government departments and South Africa's poultry producers will meet in the next few weeks in a last-ditch bid to save the country's chicken industry.²

1.1.3 Department of Trade and Industry responds to Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema demand to impose a 50% tariff on imported chicken to safeguard the domestic poultry industry against dumping from overseas producers, and to protect local jobs

On 13 January, *Fin24* reported that the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has established a national committee that will consider the challenges local poultry producers currently face, according to Minister of Trade and Industry Rob Davies.³

1.1.4 Farm murders surge in South Africa as elderly couple killed on West Rand farm in Gauteng

On 14 January, *News24* reported that a couple was killed on their smallholding in Westonaria, Gauteng, according to police on Saturday.⁴

1.1.5 Opposition party Democratic Alliance calls for action from Parliament in wake of a farm murder of an elderly couple on West Rand farm in Gauteng

¹ AGRI WESTERN CAPE: WC FIRES DEVASTATING FOR FARMING, Xolani Koyana, *Eyewitness News*, 13 January 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/01/13/wc-fires-are-devastating-for-agricultural-production>

² Poultry industry ROASTED, Jan 15 2017, Paddy Harper, *City Press*, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/poultry-industry-roasted-20170113>

³ DTI responds to Malema's poultry tariff hike demand, Jan 13 2017, Liesl Peyper, *Fin24*, <http://www.fin24.com/Companies/Agribusiness/dti-responds-to-malemas-poultry-tariff-hike-demand-20170113>

⁴ Elderly couple killed on West Rand farm, 2017-01-14, Jenna Etheridge, *News24*, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/elderly-couple-killed-on-west-rand-farm-20170114>

On 15 January, *TMG Digital* reported that the Democratic Alliance has reiterated its call for the re-establishment of a specialised police rural safety unit in the wake of yet another brutal farm attack in which an elderly couple were murdered.⁵

1.1.6 Better agricultural season expected by farmers in the Free State

On 15 January, *TNA* reported that Free State farmers are bracing themselves for a fruitful and improved planting season in 2017.⁶

1.1.7 South African motorists warned to brace for more petrol price surge amid slow economic growth

On 16 January, *Fin24* reported that the Automobile Association on Monday warned motorists to brace for another hike in fuel prices at the end of January.⁷

1.1.8 ANC pushes for expropriation of land as agrarian reform process stalls

On 16 January, *The Witness* reported that the ANC in KZN on Sunday made a bold rallying call, pushing for the expropriation of the country's land. The party wants the state to acquire at least 70% of the country's land and then lease it to communities.⁸

1.1.9 New 'use it or lose it' land policy looms in South Africa as the land crisis deepens

On 15 January, *News24* reported that the ANC's provincial chair and acting KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala, used the podium at the party's 105th anniversary celebrations to say that the issue of land would be dealt with decisively and a "use it or lose it" policy was being considered.⁹

1.1.10 IMF warns that South Africa's growth will remain subdued as political and economic woes mount

On 16 January, *Business Day* reported that the South African economy may still struggle to muster economic growth of more than 1% in 2017 the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected in a report published on Monday.¹⁰

⁵ DA calls for action from Parliament in wake of yet another brutal farm murder, *By TMG Digital*, January 15, 2017, <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2017/01/15/da-calls-for-action-from-parliament-in-wake-of-yet-another-brutal-farm-murder>

⁶ Fruitful season expected, January 15, 2017, *TNA Reporter*, <http://www.thenewage.co.za/fruitful-season-expected/>

⁷ Motorists warned to brace for more petrol pain, *Fin24*, Jan 16 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/motorists-warned-to-brace-for-more-petrol-pain-20170116>

⁸ Take land, then negotiate', Sabelo Nsele, *The Witness*, 16 January 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/take-land-then-negotiate-20170115>

⁹ New 'use it or lose it' land policy in pipeline – Zikalala, Jeff Wicks and Nonkululeko Nhlapo, *News24*, 15 January 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/new-use-it-or-lose-it-land-policy-in-pipeline-zikalala-20170115>

¹⁰ IMF warns that SA's growth will remain in the doldrums, 16 JANUARY 2017 - 14:21 PM ASHA SPECKMAN, *Business Day*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-01-16-imf-warns-that-sas-growth-will-remain-in-the-doldrums/>

1.1.11 Economic strain become more pronounced in South Africa as political and economic uncertainty increases

On 16 January, *Business Day* reported that the strained economy was reflected in data released throughout 2016 and, few changes are expected in the short term.¹¹

1.1.12 ANC pushes South Africa to abandon the willing-buyer willing seller principle as the land crisis continues to grip the country

On 16 January, *Daily News* reported that the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal has told President Zuma it wants the government to speedily expropriate land and do away with the willing-buyer willing seller principle.¹²

1.1.13 South Africa's housing market under pressure amid spike in unemployment and consumer indebtedness

On 17 January, *Fin24* reported that subdued economic growth, persistent very high unemployment and elevated consumer indebtedness do not bode well for the South African housing market in the near term, S&P Global said in a report published on Tuesday.¹³

1.1.14 Land to take centre-stage at the ANC policy conference in June

On 17 January, *Business Day* reported that the ANC is due to review the success or failure of the National Development Plan (NDP) at its upcoming policy conference, the party said on Tuesday.¹⁴

1.1.15 South Africa's controversial chicken imports have benefited the poor

On 17 January, *Business Day* reported that raising poultry tariffs would save the companies at the cost of low-income households.¹⁵

1.1.16 IMF flags South Africa's skills shortage as economy struggles

On 17 January, *Business Day* reported that SA's inadequate labour market skills mix has been flagged by the IMF as out of step with the demands of the country's economy, which the fund says will pick up moderately in 2018.¹⁶

¹¹ ECONOMIC WEEK AHEAD: Few changes likely in economy under strain, 16 JANUARY 2017, ASHA SPECKMAN, *Business Day*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-01-16-few-changes-likely-in-economy-under-strain/>

¹² ANC tells Zuma to expropriate land , Bongani Hans, *Daily News*, 16 January 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/news/special-features/zuma/anc-tells-zuma-to-expropriate-land-7417818>

¹³ SA's housing market under pressure, warns S&P Global, Carin Smith, *Fin24*, 17 January 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/sas-housing-market-under-pressure-warns-sp-global-20170117>

¹⁴ Land redistribution will be a focus of June's ANC policy conference, 17 JANUARY 2017, NATASHA MARRIAN, *Business Day*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/politics/2017-01-17-land-redistribution-will-be-a-focus-of-junes-anc-policy-conference/>

¹⁵ NEVA MAKGETLA: Chicken imports have benefited the poor, 17 JANUARY 2017, NEVA MAKGETLA, *Business Day*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/columnists/2017-01-17-neva-makgetla-chicken-imports-have-benefited-the-poor/>

1.1.17 Armyworms ravages maize crop in drought-hit Southern Africa as food prices soar

On 17 January, *Bloomberg* reported that after southern Africa's worst drought in more than 35 years ravaged crops and sent food prices soaring, farmers are battling a new crisis: armyworms.¹⁷

1.1.18 Renewed optimism in the agricultural sector in South Africa after the recent rains

On 17 January, *IOL Business* reported that South Africa's agricultural sector is on the road to recovery after the recent rains, according to analysts.¹⁸

1.1.19 Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa acknowledges that South Africa's economy is struggling

On 17 January, *Eyewitness News* reported that Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa says that while South Africa's economy will have less turbulence this year than last year, it still won't grow quickly enough.¹⁹

1.1.20 South Africa mining production lower than expected amid slow growth

On 17 January, *SABC News* reported that South Africa's mining production fell more than expected in November.²⁰

1.1.21 EU chicken import duty increase likely as South Africa attempts to protect its ailing poultry industry

On 18 January, *Business Day* reported that a hike in the safeguard duty on bone-in chicken imports from the EU appears to be a likely outcome of a high-level meeting between the government, business and labour on Tuesday.²¹

1.1.22 Decline in South Africa's mining output projected to hit GDP hard

On 18 January, *Business Day* reported that Mining production contracted at a faster pace in November, signalling that it may contribute to negative fourth-quarter economic growth.²²

¹⁶ IMF flags SA's skills shortage, 17 JANUARY 2017, ASHA SPECKMAN, *Business Day*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-01-17-imf-flags-sas-skills-shortage/>

¹⁷ PICS: Armyworms invade corn in drought-hit southern Africa, 17 January 2017, Matthew Hill and Taonga Clifford Mitimngi, *Bloomberg*, <http://www.iol.co.za/business-report/economy/pics-armyworms-invade-corn-in-drought-hit-southern-africa-7433300>

¹⁸ Recent rains bring good news, 17 January 2017, Manyane Manyane, *IOL Business Report*, <http://www.iol.co.za/business-report/economy/recent-rains-bring-good-news-7432260>

¹⁹ SA ECONOMY WON'T GROW QUICKLY ENOUGH – RAMAPHOSA, Stephen Grootes, *Eyewitness News*, 17 January 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/01/17/sa-economy-won-t-grow-quickly-enough>

²⁰ SA mining production lower than expected, Tuesday 17 January 2017, Tshepo Mongoai, *SABC News*, [http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/f47579004fba780a341e341ba99bb6b/\(K\)-SA-mining-production-lower-than-expected-20171701](http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/f47579004fba780a341e341ba99bb6b/(K)-SA-mining-production-lower-than-expected-20171701)

²¹ EU chicken import duty increase likely, 18 JANUARY 2017, LINDA ENSOR, *Business Day*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/business-and-economy/2017-01-18-eu-chicken-import-duty-increase-likely/>

1.1.23 South Africa's inflation soars to 6.8% in December as food prices soar

On 18 January, *Fin24* reported that inflation peaked at 6.8% in December 2016, according to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA).²³

1.1.24 Growing optimism in South Africa's agricultural sector as farmers plant more maize this season after recent rains

On 18 January, *Reuters* reported that farmers have planted a third more hectares of maize this season following increased rainfall and favourable climate conditions, a Reuters poll showed on Wednesday.²⁴

1.1.25 Consumer inflation picks up pace amid slow economic growth

On 18 January, *Business Day* reported that consumer inflation moved further outside the Reserve Bank's 3%-6% target range in December.²⁵

1.1.26 South Africa food, drinks prices rise as inflation increases to 6.8% – above target

On 18 January, *Business Day* reported that consumer inflation peaked at 6.8% in December 2016, according to Statistics South Africa, which is two percentage points up from 6.6% reported in November.²⁶

1.1.27 Rainfall prospects projected to improve in drought-hit Western Cape in the near-future

On 18 January, *Eyewitness News* reported that the Western Cape is in the middle of its worst drought in years, but one expert says future weather forecasts suggests the situation could be looking up.²⁷

1.1.28 South Africa may be downgraded to junk status due to political risk and low growth

On 18 January, *Business Day* reported that although SA avoided a downgrade to non-investment grade, or junk status, in 2016, the country is not yet out of the woods and may be downgraded this year.²⁸

²² Decline in mining output to hit GDP, 18 JANUARY 2017, ASHA SPECKMAN, *Business Live*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-01-18-decline-in-mining-output-to-hit-gdp/>

²³ Inflation soars to 6.8% in December, Lameez Omarjee, *Fin24*, 18 January 2017 <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/inflation-at-68-in-december-20170118>

²⁴ A third more maize planted this season after more rain, 18 JANUARY 2017, TANISHA HEIBERG, *Reuters*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-01-18-a-third-more-maize-planted-this-season-after-more-rain/>

²⁵ Consumer inflation picks up pace, 18 JANUARY 2017, PERICLES ANETOS, *Business Day*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-01-18-consumer-inflation-picks-up-pace/>

²⁶ Food, drinks prices rise as inflation increases to 6.8% – above target, Staff Reporter, *City Press*, 2017-01-18, <http://citypress.news24.com/Business/food-drinks-prices-rise-as-inflation-increases-to-68-above-target-20170118>

²⁷ EXPERT: FUTURE WEATHER FORECASTS COULD IMPROVE WC DROUGHT CONDITIONS, Xolani Koyana, *Eyewitness News*, 18 January 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/01/18/expert-future-weather-forecasts-could-improve-wc-drought-conditions>

1.1.29 More protests on the cards in South Africa amid slow growth and increasing political uncertainty

On 17 January, *The New Age* reported that the government has warned against more protests this year after social unrest left a trail of destruction to property amounting to well over a billion rand last year.²⁹

1.1.30 Slow growth predicted for South Africa's truck industry as political and economic problems increase

On 18 January, *IOL Motoring* reported that after declining for two years in a row, sales of medium and heavy commercial vehicles and buses are likely to show a modest improvement in 2017, according to Isuzu Truck SA COO Craig Uren.³⁰

1.1.31 South Africa scrambles as R100bn in welfare threatened, putting millions of social grants recipients at risk

On 18 January, *Bloomberg News* reported that South Africa's government, set to miss a deadline to appoint a new distributor of welfare grants worth about \$10.3bn (over R100bn) a year to more than 17 million people, asked aspirant bidders to an information session as the end of a contract with Net 1 UEPS Technologies looms.³¹

1.1.32 Consumer confidence dives as bleak outlook hits South African households amid spike in food prices due to drought

On 19 January, *Fin24* reported that the harsh realities of weak household income growth, poor credit extension and soaring food prices during the festive season led to a dive in South African consumer levels, the FNB and Bureau of Economic Research (BER) Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) showed on Monday.³²

1.1.33 South African dairy company Clover struggles as drought bites

²⁸ SA may be downgraded to junk status due to political risk and low growth, 18 JANUARY 2017 - 14:47 PM MISHECK MUTIZE AND SEAN GOSSE, *Business Day*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-01-18-sa-may-be-downgraded-to-junk-status-due-to-political-risk-and-low-growth/>

²⁹ More protests on the cards, January 17, 2017, LESLEY TSHAMANO, *The New Age*, <http://www.thenewage.co.za/more-protests-on-the-cards/>

³⁰ Slow growth predicted for SA truck industry, 18 January 2017, *IOL Motoring*, <http://www.iol.co.za/motoring/trucks/slow-growth-predicted-for-sa-truck-industry-7443694>

³¹ SA scrambles as R100bn in welfare threatened, 2017-01-18, Loni Prinsloo, Thembisile Dzonzi and Renee Bonorchis, *Bloomberg News*

³² Consumer confidence dives as bleak outlook hits households, Jan 19 2017, Eugenie du Pre, *Fin24*, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/consumer-confidence-dives-as-bleak-outlook-hits-households-20170119>

On 18 January, *Business Day* reported that Clover's December 2016 trading volumes were markedly lower than for December 2015, the dairy company said.³³

1.1.34 South Africa trade conditions improve despite growing challenges

On 18 January, *Business Day* reported that trade conditions were stronger in December despite weaker sales volumes, with the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (Sacci's) moving above the threshold between expansion and contraction.³⁴

1.1.34 Retail sales surprise with much stronger rise than expected

On 18 January, *Business Day* reported that retail sales increased by 3.8% in November from a year earlier, following a surprise 0.2% decrease in October, Statistics SA said on Wednesday.³⁵

1.1.35 South Africa economy poised for growth, and a stable repo rate in 2017

On 19 January, *Reuters* reported that SA's economy will get a boost from perkier commodity prices, a benign inflation outlook, and better rains for the agriculture sector this year, a Reuters poll found on Thursday.³⁶

1.1.36 South African households develop new coping mechanisms as food prices soar due to drought

On 19 January, *Bloomberg* reported that South African shoppers with limited spending money are turning to low-cost supermarket chains such as Shoprite Holdings for cheaper food and eschewing new clothes to counter accelerating inflation.³⁷

1.1.37 Sharp increases in poultry meat prices push the Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) higher amid persistent drought

On 18 January, *SABC News* reported that statistics South Africa has attributed the higher than expected Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) partly to the sharp increases in the price of poultry meat.³⁸

³³ Clover warns of sluggish trade in festive season, 18 JANUARY 2017, STAFF WRITER, *Business Day*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/companies/retail-and-consumer/2017-01-18-clover-warns-of-lower-interim-earnings-on-lower-volumes/>

³⁴ Trade conditions improve despite headwinds, Sacci says, 18 JANUARY 2017, PERICLES ANETOS, *Business Day*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-01-18-trade-conditions-improve-despite-headwinds-sacci-says/>

³⁵ Retail sales surprise with much stronger rise than expected, 18 JANUARY 2017, PERICLES ANETOS, *Business Day*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-01-18-retail-sales-surprise-with-much-stronger-rise-than-expected/>

³⁶ SA economy poised for growth, and a stable repo rate in 2017, 19 JANUARY 2017, VUYANI NDABA, *Reuters*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-01-19-sa-economy-poised-for-growth-and-a-stable-repo-rate-in-2017/>

³⁷ How South Africans are dealing with inflation, 19 January 2017, Janice Kew, *Bloomberg*, <http://www.iol.co.za/business-report/economy/how-south-africans-are-dealing-with-inflation-7450990>

1.1.38 Recent rains in South Africa fail to wash away farmers' worries

On 15 January, *Business Day* reported that while the recent rains have promised better days for South Africa's farmers who have been plodding a difficult path during four years of drought, their immediate prospects are dire.³⁹

1.1.39 Low consumer confidence set to hurt retailers as economic growth slows in South Africa

On 20 January, *Business Day* reported that consumer confidence dropped in the fourth quarter of 2016, signalling bad news for durable goods retailers, economists warned on Thursday.⁴⁰

1.1.40 AgriSA announces that South African maize farmers are prepared for the armyworms that are currently plaguing neighbouring countries

On 20 January, *TMG Digital* reported that South African farmers are not worried about an invasion of "armyworms" despite the pesky caterpillars devastating maize crops in three neighbouring countries.⁴¹

1.2 Water Security

1.2.1 Water is still scarce as drought crisis deepens in South Africa with dam levels around the country standing at an average of 50.7%.; with Vaal Dam 52.8% full while Cape Town dams levels sit at 44.3%, with residents using too much water – 59 million litres more than the city's daily quota

On 15 January, *City Press* reported that the rain may be falling, but water restrictions will remain firmly in place. The department of water and sanitation may decide to lift the restrictions, but only in May in summer rainfall areas.⁴²

1.2.2 Water scarcity takes heavy toll on Mpumalanga pupils amid escalation in illegal pipe connections in the province

On 13 January, *News24* reported that taps that have run dry in Gedlembane, Mpumalanga, have left children having to wake up several hours earlier in the morning to fetch water to bath before going to school.⁴³

³⁸ Stats SA attributes higher CPI to increases in poultry meat prices, 18 January 2017, Tshepo Mongoi, *SABC News*, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/892a62004fbcceec88debe56448ba7d5/Stats-SA-attributes-higher-CPI-to-increases-in-poultry-meat-price-20171801>

³⁹ Rains fail to wash away farmers' worries, 15 JANUARY 2017, LUCKY BIYASE, *Business Day*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bt/business-and-economy/2017-01-15-rains-fail-to-wash-away-farmers-worries/>

⁴⁰ Low consumer confidence set to hurt retailers, 20 JANUARY 2017, ASHA SPECKMAN, *Business Day*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-01-20-low-consumer-confidence-set-to-hurt-retailers/>

⁴¹ SA maize farmers prepared for 'armyworms' plaguing neighbouring countries: AgriSA, Ernest Mabuza, *TMG Digital*, 20 January 2017, <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2017/01/20/SA-maize-farmers-prepared-for-armyworms-plaguing-neighbouring-countries-AgriSA>

⁴² Water is still scarce, 2017-01-15, Staff reporter, *City Press*, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/water-is-still-scarce-20170114>

1.2.3 Free State town holds service in Gauteng to pray for rain as drought takes its toll

On 15 January, *TMG Digital* reported that a small Free State town is so desperate for rain that its mayor is holding a prayer service – in Gauteng.⁴⁴

1.2.4 City of Cape Town set to cash in on water restriction penalties as it bills ratepayers over R33-million more than what they had expected for the months of November and December 2016

On 15 January, *TMG/Times* reported that the City of Cape Town is set to coin it as its residents fail to adhere to imposed water restrictions imposed by the DA administration. South Africa is currently facing a drought crisis leading to almost all the country's metros having to enforce water restrictions as dams run dry.⁴⁵

1.2.5 Cape Town water inspectorate consisting of 51 officials intensifies efforts to curb water wastage as residents exceed the daily water usage target of 800 million litres of water

On 15 January, *Eyewitness News* reported that the City of Cape Town is stepping up its enforcement of water restrictions in a bid to reduce residents' water wastage.⁴⁶

1.2.6 Vaal Dam water levels surge to 59.15% but drought not yet over

On 16 January, *Eyewitness News* reported that the Water and Sanitations Department says the Vaal Dam water levels have risen to 59.15%.⁴⁷

1.2.7 Cape Town is using 90-million litres of water a day above targeted savings as drought bites in South Africa

On 17 January, *TMG Digital* reported that Cape Town's water consumption is rising despite pleas for residents to use less.⁴⁸

1.2.8 Growing concern as Cape Town dam levels dip as drought bites

⁴³ Water scarcity takes heavy toll on Mpumalanga pupils, 2017-01-13, Constance Sithole, *News24*

Correspondent, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/water-scarcity-takes-heavy-toll-on-mpumalanga-pupils-20170113>

⁴⁴ Free State town holds service in Gauteng to pray for rain, *Tmg Digital*, 15 January, 2017, <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2017/01/15/Free-State-town-holds-service-in-Gauteng-to-pray-for-rain?platform=hootsuite>

⁴⁵ City of Cape Town set to cash in on water restriction penalties, Aphiwe Deklerk | 15 January, 2017, *TMG Digital/Times*, <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2017/01/15/City-of-Cape-Town-set-to-cash-in-on-water-restriction-penalties1>

⁴⁶ CITY OF CT CARRIES OUT BLITZ TO CURB WATER WASTAGE, Eduard De Kock & Masa Kekana, *Eyewitness News*, 15 January 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/01/15/ct-carries-out-blitz-to-curb-water-wastage>

⁴⁷ VAAL DAM WATER LEVELS RISE TO 59.15%, Mia Lindeque, *Eyewitness News*, 16 January 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/01/16/vaal-dam-water-levels-rise-to-59-15>

⁴⁸ Cape Town is using 90-million litres of water a day above targeted savings, *TMG Digital*, 17 January 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2017-01-17-cape-town-is-using-90-million-litres-of-water-a-day-above-targeted-savings/>

On 17 January, *Eyewitness News* reported that Cape Town dams could have enough water to supply Capetonians for at least 100 days.⁴⁹

1.2.9 Cape Town residents urged to save water as dam levels head towards a critical stage

On 17 January, *Eyewitness News* reported that the City of Cape Town has warned dam levels will reach a critical stage within the next few months if residents do not drastically curb water consumption.⁵⁰

1.2.10 Rand Water workers down tools amid wage dispute

On 17 January, *SABC News* reported that workers at the Rand Water sanitation plant in Sebokeng in the Vaal have stopped working, saying management has short-changed them.⁵¹

1.2.11 Water quality under threat as Cape Town's dam levels plunge amid drought

On 18 January, *TMG/The Times* reported that Cape Town's dam levels are expected to dip to about 20% in the next few months with some experts warning that the city — which consumed up to 890-million litres a day for the week ending on January 15 — has enough water stored for only the next 100 days.⁵²

1.2.12 Gauteng province water restrictions continue despite rising dam levels

On 19 January, *Eyewitness News* reported that the Water and Sanitation Department says even though the dam levels have risen again it's still waiting for the rainy season to end in May before reviewing the current water restrictions.⁵³

1.2.13 Tough new water restrictions for Cape Town as drought ravages Western Cape

On 19 January, *SABC News* reported that tough new water restrictions in Cape Town could be announced as early as next week.⁵⁴

1.2.14 Cape Town only has enough water stored 'for the next 100 days' as the drought bites

⁴⁹ RESEARCHER SOUNDS ALARM OVER CT WATER SUPPLY LEVELS, Xolani Koyana & Lauren Isaacs, *Eyewitness News*, 17 January 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/01/17/ct-approaching-100-days-left-of-storage-dam-levels>

⁵⁰ CAPETONIANS URGED TO 'DRASTICALLY' CURB WATER USAGE, Petrus Botha, *Eyewitness News*, 17 January 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/01/17/capetonians-urged-to-drastically-curb-water-consumption>

⁵¹ Rand Water workers down tools, Tuesday 17 January 2017, *SABC News*, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/5525c3804fbc515fb31ef341ba99bb6b/Rand-Water-workers-down-tools-20171701>

⁵² What happens when storage dams drop dangerously low?, 18 JANUARY 2017, TANYA FARBER, *TMG Digital/The Times*, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2017-01-18-what-happens-when-storage-dams-drop-dangerously-low/>

⁵³ GAUTENG WATER RESTRICTIONS CONTINUE DESPITE RISING DAM LEVELS, Ziyanda Ngcobo, *Eyewitness News*, 19 January 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/01/19/gauteng-water-restrictions-continue-despite-rising-dam-levels>

⁵⁴ Tough new water restrictions for Cape Town, Thursday 19 January 2017, *SABC News*, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/51a256804fc0cdf09b50bf56448ba7d5/Tough-new-water-restrictions-for-Cape-Town-20171901>

On 18 January, *TMG/The Times* reported that according to the experts, there will be drastic effects in both the short term and the long term if dams reach critical levels.⁵⁵

1.2.15 South Africa's ailing water infrastructure affects Lower Oliphants River water supply in Western Cape

On 20 January, *SABC News* reported that the National Water and Sanitation Department says it's engaging with the Lower Oliphants River Water Users' Association in the Western Cape for a long term solution, following a break in the main canal which supplies the large agricultural region with water.⁵⁶

2.0 Daily Infographics: WATER SCARCITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

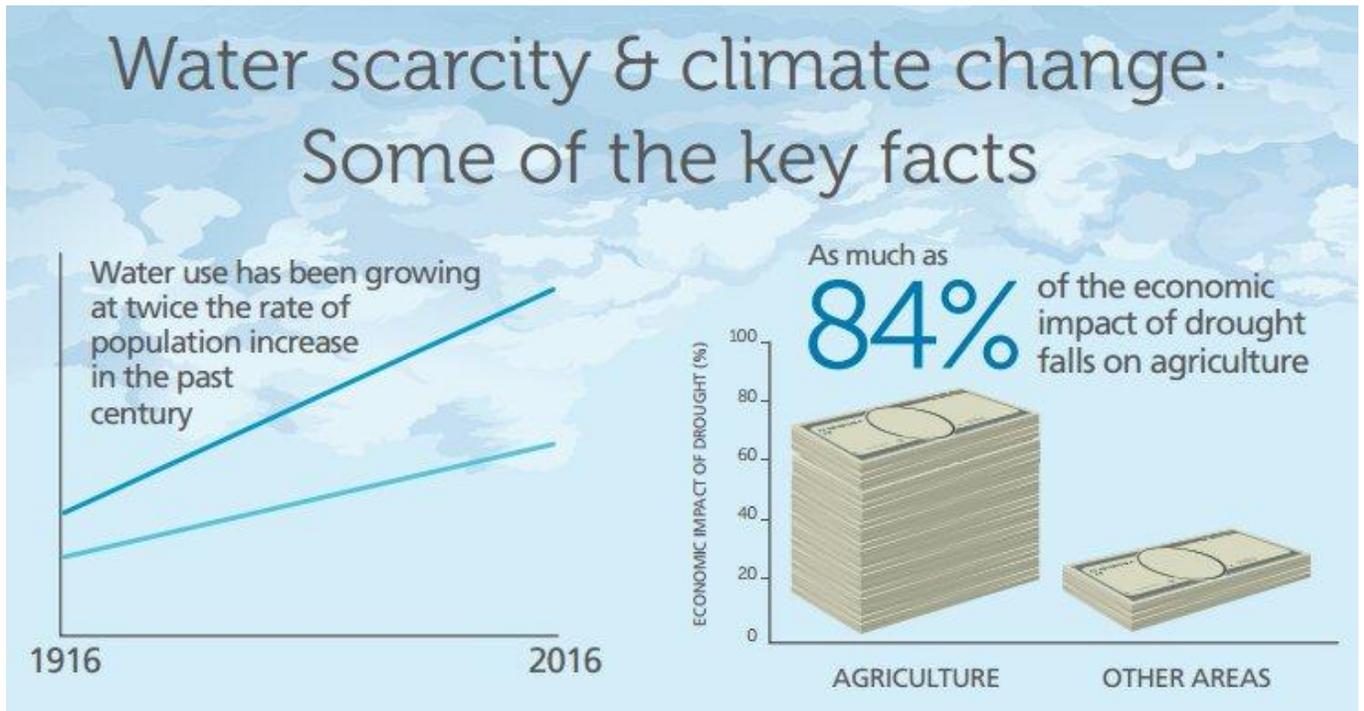


Figure 1. Climate change is threatening our freshwater resources (Source: FAO Knowledge)

⁵⁵ Cape Town only has enough water stored 'for the next 100 days'. Here's what's about to happen..., Tanya Farber, *TMG Digital/The Times*, 18 January 2017, <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2017/01/18/Cape-Town-only-has-enough-water-stored-for-the-next-100-days.-Heres-whats-about-to-happen...>

⁵⁶ "Stalling of Lower Oliphants River water supply being addressed", Friday 20 January 2017, *SABC News*, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/700e28804fc41643928f8e56448ba7d5/Stalling-of-Lower-Oliphants-River-water-supply-being-addressed-20172001>

3.0 Overall Assessment

- ❖ **Food prices soar as low-income households struggle to put food on the table amid persistent drought, slow growth and growing political uncertainty in South Africa**
- ❖ **Cape Town dam levels continue to dip despite water restrictions and fines amid drought**
- ❖ **South Africa's ailing water infrastructure under immense stress amid drought and growing demand for water**
- ❖ **Willing-buyer, willing-seller land reform principle under threat as ANC pushes for intensified land expropriation in South Africa**
- ❖ **Water quality and public health becoming a major concern as drought persist**
- ❖ **Succinctly, low-income households becoming more food and water insecure in South Africa as drought takes its toll**