

# **Food & Water Security in South Africa WEEKLY MONITOR:**

**11 February- 17 February 2017**

## **Prepared by Augustus Consulting**

Augustus Consulting monitors reports of food and water security in South Africa, including media articles, blogs, opinion pieces and other announcements. Unless otherwise indicated (such as in articles written by Augustus Consulting), the language and views contained in the search results reflect those of the originating author and/or publication and do not necessarily represent the views of Augustus Consulting. Archived media reviews are available: <http://www.augustusconsulting.co.za>

### **1.0 Key Daily Trends, Themes and Issues**

- **South African farmers battle with armyworm invasion amid persistent drought**
- **North West farmers fight Rabies outbreak amid a stubborn drought in South Africa**
- **South Africa's total maize production declines by more than one-fifth in 2016 as an El Nino-induced drought damaged crops for a second year**
- **Agri SA announces that it has no record of farmers who were assisted with drought relief through the R2.5 billion mentioned by President Jacob Zuma in his State of the Nation Address (SONA)**
- **Three arrested for brutal Berg farm attack as security remains a major issue in South Africa's agricultural sector**
- **South Africa's weak economic growth and credit risk of over-indebted households are reflect in the negative outlook for the country's banks**
- **Critics point out that there is nothing new in the recent land restitution announcement by the ANC and President Jacob Zuma**
- **Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti accused of corruption in the allocation of farms in South Africa**
- **Democratic Alliance to write the Public Protector with a request that she investigates Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti for allegedly facilitating a land deal for his close friends without following required procedures**
- **South Africa faces famine threat from toxic alien weed amid reports of armyworm invasion**
- **South Africa's Agriculture Department urges farmers to inspect their maize and crops regularly in order to detect the fall armyworm as early as possible**

- **Fall army worm detected in Gauteng amid increasing food insecurity in South Africa**
- **Eastern Cape small scale farmers receive drought-resistant seed amid persistent drought in South Africa**
- **Lack of restitution in District Six reflects the depth of the land crisis in South Africa**
- **South Africa's Minister of Agriculture Senzeni Zokwana visits farms in Limpopo with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation in an effort to bring the False Armyworm plague under control**
- **The BankservAfrica Economic Transaction Index (BETI) indicate that the flow of money through South Africa's financial system is showing signs of improvement, suggesting the economy could change for the better in 2017**
- **South Africa's bulk exports fall 6.5% year on year in January 2017 amid slow growth**
- **Pressure mounts on the Southern African Development Community region to come up with a proper strategy to avert the spread of the fall armyworm**
- **ANC Treasurer General Zweli Mkhize announces that the party will put pressure on government to speed up land re-distribution in South Africa**
- **ANC urges black people not to accept money in exchange of land as the agrarian reform crisis in South Africa deepens**
- **South Africa's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Senzeni Zokwana announces that nine pesticides have now been registered to spray against the Fall Armyworm**
- **A combination of native African armyworms and Fall armyworms from the Americas are ravaging staple crops across Southern Africa, and if uncontrolled, they have the potential to cause major food shortages**
- **South Africa's Premier Foods and Fishing to list in March**
- **Western Cape Agriculture Department announces that it is engaging with farmers to ensure that the fall armyworm doesn't spread to the province- the pest has been detected in maize crops in Limpopo, the North West, Gauteng and the Free State**
- **South Africa's government announces that it is planning to focus its efforts to help smallholder farmers to increase their access to markets in the year ahead**
- **Slight drop in South Africa's unemployment rate amid slow growth**
- **Emergency meeting in Zimbabwe warns of huge armyworm threat to food supplies across several African countries**

- **Fall armyworms invade agricultural sector in six provinces in South Africa**
- **Land invasion threat in Johannesburg reflect the deepening land crisis in South Africa**
- **Ten firearms seized in raid on Klipfontein farm in KwaZulu-Natal amid surge in farm attacks in South Africa**
- **Manhunt for killers of Limpopo farmer amid spike in farm murders in South Africa**
- **Cosatu deeply concerned about possible job losses due to the introduction of sugar tax in South Africa**
- **South Africa's Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti announces that a single law should be developed to address the issue of land restitution without compensation in the country**
- **South Africa's Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan tells Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini that her plan to extend the social grant contract with Net 1 would be unlawful**
- **Four family members murdered on Mpumalanga farm as farm attacks continue to haunt South Africa**
- **South Africa's risk of a credit rating downgrade to junk status increases amid growing economic and political uncertainty**
- **AA Automobile Association expects South Africa's petrol price to increase by between three and four cents a litre in March following February's 29c price hike**
- **Slight drop in South Africa's inflation amid slow economic growth**
- **Limpopo community wins millions in land claim as the land debate intensifies in South Africa**
- **The EFF claims that ANC's recent announcement on land restitution without compensation proves that the EFF polices are right**
- **World Bank sees very fragile recovery for South Africa's economy amid rising political uncertainty in the country**
- **South Africa's retail sales edge slightly higher in December**
- **South Africa's Rural and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti announces that the willing-buyer, willing-seller policy will no longer be used as the Valuer-General will now determine land prices**
- **Stats SA's Quarterly Labour Force Survey shows that jobless rate has gone down but mines still bleeding jobs as the mining sector shed 65,000 jobs since the last quarter of 2015**

- **Locusts breeding in central Zambia may pose a bigger threat to farmers in Southern Africa than the fall armyworm that's ravaged crops this year**
- **The outlook for South Africa's civil construction and building sectors is negative, with declining tender activity in both sectors**
- **South Africa's Deputy Minister for Public Service and Administration Ayanda Dlodlo says that the ANC should use its majority in the -government to push for the expropriation of land without compensation, because it was stolen in the first place**
- **Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies says government has established a task team to address challenges in South Africa's poultry industry**
- **South Africa's Consumer Goods Council says the lack of scientific research for government wanting to introduce a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages is one of its key concerns**
- **Pioneer Foods says 100% fruit juices complement healthy eating and cannot be equated to sugary drinks as the sugar tax debate rages on in South Africa**
- **Rising food prices could hamper inflation rate decline in South Africa amid persistent drought**
- **Afriforum bemoans number of farm attacks in South Africa**
- **South Africa is facing a possible national disaster over the fall armyworm invasion, which could see a devastating effect on sub-Saharan crop production**
- **South African Post Office denies links to Sassa grants bid as the social grant debacle escalates**
- **SADC leaders meet to tackle armyworm invasion amid growing food insecurity in Southern Africa**
- **AfriBusiness opposes land expropriation without compensation as the land question in South Africa remains unresolved**
- **The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) calls for the restoration of farmer-commandos amid surge in farm attacks in South Africa**
- **South Africa's Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan issues a statement to deny reports that he was heading for conflict with Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini over the crisis threatening welfare grant payments to the poor**
- **Agriculture, a key contributor to South Africa's economy, shows growth in labour participation, but the armyworm outbreak poses a significant risk**
- **South Africa concerned about Fall armyworms in sugarcane crops amid persistent drought**

- South Africa's farmers are tired of being called land thieves and are willing to produce their title deeds to show that they are not guilty
- President Jacob Zuma says that his government does not hate white people, but land must be returned to the black majority in South Africa
- Survey shows that government, media and business distrust amongst South Africans is at an all-time high amid growing political and economic uncertainty in the country
- Sixteen East and Southern African countries have agreed on urgent plans to tackle armyworm and avian flu
- Rising sea temperatures are shaping tropical storms in Southern Africa amid increasing food insecurity
- ANCWL rejects proposal for banks to pay out social grants in South Africa
- The social grants crisis in South Africa threatens the food security of poor households in the country
- South Africa's Deputy Minister for Agriculture Bheki Cele says agriculture remains one of the main pillars of the South African economy that is yet to be fully transformed
- Quarterly labour force statistics released by statistics South Africa shows that the unemployment rate remains high in Eastern Cape
- Running water returns to Qwaqwa in Eastern Cape after two drought stricken years
- South Africa's Department of Water and Sanitation reported to be bankrupt and R4.3 billion in the red, leaving hundreds of contractors unpaid for at least seven months
- Mpumalanga becomes that battleground for the preservation of South Africa's water resources
- City of Cape Town is urges borehole water consumers to irrigate responsibly as the drought in South Africa bites
- City of Cape Town cracks down on high water users as dam levels fall
- Democratic Alliance to request the Auditor General Kimi Makwetu to launch an investigation into the alleged gross mismanagement of funds by Water Affairs Minister Nomvula Mokonyane
- The days of water wasting in South Africa are over as drought crisis deepens
- Acid Mine Drainage remains a serious threat to water security in South Africa

- Years of good rains needed in KwaZulu-Natal for dams to fully recover from the devastating drought
- City of Cape Town toughens water restrictions as twenty nine of its municipal swimming pools will be closed from Monday until Thursday in an effort to save water
- Cape Town residents deaf to pleas to use less water as usage increased by nearly 20 million litres per day in one week
- Dam levels near rock bottom as Cape Town urges monumental effort to save water amid severe drought
- Cape Town only has around 135 days of usable water left as South Africa's drought crisis deepens
- No water for three days in Northriding, Johannesburg due to urgent water pipe repairs as South Africa's ailing water infrastructure struggles amid persistent drought
- Western Cape provincial government announces that it has enough water to next rainy season amid persistent drought in South Africa
- Cape Town water crisis deepens as water red alert restrictions kick in as dam levels reach crisis point
- City of Cape Town to name and shame water offenders as dam levels fall into the crisis zone
- Western Cape government reiterates that Cape Town residents must change their water consumption habits urgently or face a full blown crisis
- Western Cape government announces that the dam levels have dropped to below 35%, 10% lower than the same time last year
- City of Tshwane imposes water restrictions to residents following a warning from the City's water supplier to effect water rationing
- Western Cape government urges cautious approach to the province's water shortage amid protest against desalination
- South Africa's Department of Water and Sanitation announces that dam levels have decreased in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and the Western Cape amid persistent drought
- Western Cape government announces that a study has shown that provincial water demands will exceed the current supply in 2019
- Western Cape government announces that desalination should be the last resort in addressing water shortages in the province due to cost and other factors

## **1.1 Food Security:**

### **1.1.1 South African farmers battle with armyworm invasion amid persistent drought**

On 10 February, *Reuters* reported that inspecting the damage on his 4,000 hectare farm, Petri van der Walt breaks open the stem of a sorghum plant to reveal the crop-eating pest that has for the first time been detected in Africa's biggest grain producer.<sup>1</sup>

### **1.1.2 North West farmers fight Rabies outbreak amid a stubborn drought in South Africa**

On 10 February, *SABC News* reported that livestock farmers affected by the Rabies outbreak in the two Schweizer Reneke and Bloemhof areas of the North West continue to take precautionary measures to ensure that the virus does not affect human element in the area.<sup>2</sup>

### **1.1.4 South Africa's total maize production declines by more than one-fifth in 2016 as an El Nino-induced drought damaged crops for a second year**

On 10 February, *Bloomberg* reported that the 2016 total maize harvest in SA, the world's biggest producer of the white variety after Mexico, fell 22%, the smallest crop since 2007, as an El Nino-induced drought damaged crops for a second year.<sup>3</sup>

### **1.1.5 Agri SA announces that it has no record of farmers who were assisted with drought relief through the R2.5 billion mentioned by President Jacob Zuma in his State of the Nation Address (SONA)**

On 10 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that Agri SA says it has no record of farmers who were assisted with drought relief through the R2.5 billion mentioned by President Jacob Zuma in his State of the Nation Address (Sona).<sup>4</sup>

### **1.1.6 Three arrested for brutal Berg farm attack as security remains a major issue in South Africa's agricultural sector**

On 11 February, *TMG/The Times* reported that three men have been arrested in connection with the brutal attack on Underberg farmer Trevor Rees last week.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> South African farmers battle crop-eating pest, Reuters, 10 February 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/a89b16804005bc489978fb0fcc0fb1a3/South-African-farmers-battle-crop-eating-pest-20171002>

<sup>2</sup> N. West farmers fight Rabies outbreak, SABC News, 10 February 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/6d38358040057343ba2bfb0fcc0fb1a3/N.West-farmers-fight-Rabies-outbreak-20171002>

<sup>3</sup> Total maize production declines by more than one-fifth in 2016, Ana Monteiro and Liezel Hill, Bloomberg, 10 February 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/business-and-economy/2017-02-10-total-maize-production-declines-by-more-than-one-fifth-in-2016/>

<sup>4</sup> AGRI SA questions Zuma statement on govt drought support, Queenin Masuabi, Eyewitness News, 10 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/10/there-s-no-record-of-farmers-assisted-by-govt-agri-sa>

<sup>5</sup> Three arrested for brutal Berg farm attack, Jeff Wicks, TMG Digital/The Times 11 February 2017, <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2017/02/11/three-arrested-for-brutal-berg-farm-attack>

### **1.1.7 South Africa's weak economic growth and credit risk of over-indebted households are reflected in the negative outlook for the country's banks**

On 12 February, *Fin24* reported that weak economic growth and credit risk of over-indebted households are reflected in the negative outlook for South African banks, according to Standard & Poor's (S&P).<sup>6</sup>

### **1.1.8 Critics point out that there is nothing new in the recent land restitution announcement by the ANC and President Jacob Zuma**

On 12 February, *City Press* reported that despite the ANC and President Jacob Zuma hyping up the return of land late last year and during a statement on January 8, his state of the nation address (Sona) this week contained hardly any new initiatives.<sup>7</sup>

### **1.1.9 Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti accused of corruption in the allocation of farms in South Africa**

On 12 February, *Sunday Times News* reported that Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti introduced a Luthuli House comrade "shopping" for a thriving Limpopo farm to one of his top officials at a land summit.<sup>8</sup>

### **1.1.10 Democratic Alliance to write the Public Protector with a request that she investigate Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti for allegedly facilitating a land deal for his close friends without following required procedures**

On 12 February, *TMG Digital* reported that the Democratic Alliance says it will write to the Public Protector, Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane, to request that she investigate Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti for allegedly facilitating a land deal for his close friends without following required procedures.<sup>9</sup>

### **1.1.11 South Africa faces famine threat from toxic alien weed amid reports of armyworm invasion**

On 11 February, *Saturday Star* reported that like the dreaded fall armyworm that threatens to wreak havoc on maize crops in southern Africa, the pesky famine weed is on the march, too.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Low growth dampens SA banks' outlook - S&P, Lameez Omarjee, *Fin24*, 12 February 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/low-growth-dampens-sa-banks-outlook-sp-20170212-2>

<sup>7</sup> Nothing new on land restitution, Andisiwe Makinana, *City Press*, 12 February 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/nothing-new-on-land-restitution-20170211>

<sup>8</sup> Minister helped friends take over R97m farm, Mzilikazi wa Afrika, *Sunday Times News*, 12 February 2017, <http://www.timeslive.co.za/sundaytimes/stnews/2017/02/12/Minister-helped-friends-take-over-R97m-farm1>

<sup>9</sup> Public Protector must investigate minister's alleged dodgy land deal, says DA, *TMG Digital*, 12 February 2017, <http://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2017/02/12/Public-Protector-must-investigate-minister-s-alleged-dodgy-land-deal,-says-DA>

<sup>10</sup> SA faces famine threat from toxic alien weed, Sheree Bega, *Saturday Star*, 11 February 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/sa-faces-famine-threat-from-toxic-alien-weed-7709810>



### **1.1.12 South Africa's Agriculture Department urges farmers to inspect their maize and crops regularly in order to detect the fall armyworm as early as possible**

On 12 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that the Agriculture Department has urged farmers to inspect their maize and crops regularly in order to detect the fall armyworm as early as possible.<sup>11</sup>

### **1.1.13 Fall army worm detected in Gauteng amid increasing food insecurity in South Africa**

On 11 February, *eNCA* reported that the fall army worm has spread to Gauteng and the western parts of Mpumalanga.<sup>12</sup>

### **1.1.14 Eastern Cape small scale farmers receive drought-resistant seed amid persistent drought in South Africa**

On 11 February, *SABC News* reported that subsistence and small scale farmers in the Eastern Cape will soon benefit from a research initiative by the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian reform.<sup>13</sup>

### **1.1.15 Lack of restitution in District Six reflects the depth of the land crisis in South Africa**

On 11 February, *Weekend Argus* reported that lack of restitution in District Six is blot on our record.<sup>14</sup>

### **1.1.16 South Africa's Minister of Agriculture Senzeni Zokwana visits farms in Limpopo with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation in an effort to bring the False Armyworm plague under control**

On 13 February, *News24* reported that the Minister of Agriculture Senzeni Zokwana will visit farms in Limpopo with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on Monday in an effort to bring the False Armyworm plague under control.<sup>15</sup>

### **1.1.17 The BankservAfrica Economic Transaction Index (BETI) indicate that the flow of money through South Africa's financial system is showing signs of improvement, suggesting the economy could change for the better in 2017**

On 13 February, *Fin24* reported that the flow of money through South Africa's financial system is showing signs of improvement, according to the BankservAfrica Economic Transaction Index (BETI), which suggests the economy could change for the better in 2017.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Farmers urged to regularly inspect crops over armyworm, Thando Kubheka, *Eyewitness News*, 12 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/12/farmers-urged-to-regularly-inspect-crops-over-armyworm>

<sup>12</sup> Fall army worm detected in Gauteng, eNCA, 11 February 2017, <http://www.enca.com/south-africa/fall-army-worm-detected-in-gauteng>

<sup>13</sup> E Cape small scale farmers given drought resistant seed, Atule Joka, *SABC News*, 11 February 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/50f9a60040089c9fa060eb75889f6f7e/E-Cape-farmers-see-crops-improvement-20171102>

<sup>14</sup> Lack of restitution in District Six is blot on our record, Ryland Fisher, *Weekend Argus*, 11 February 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/news/opinion/lack-of-restitution-in-district-six-is-blot-on-our-record-7712663>

<sup>15</sup> Zokwana, FAO to visit farms hit by False Armyworm, Jenni Evans, *News24*, 13 February 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/zokwana-fao-to-visit-farms-hit-by-false-armyworm-20170213>

### **1.1.18 South Africa's bulk exports fall 6.5% year on year in January 2017 amid slow growth**

On 13 February, *Business Day* reported that SA's bulk export volumes fell 6.5% year on year in January to 13.5-million tonnes.<sup>17</sup>

### **1.1.19 Pressure mounts on the Southern African Development Community region to come up with a proper strategy to avert the spread of the fall armyworm**

On 13 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that pressure is mounting on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region to come up with a proper strategy to avert the spread of the fall armyworm.<sup>18</sup>

### **1.1.20 ANC Treasurer General Zweli Mkhize announces that the party will put pressure on government to speed up land re-distribution in South Africa**

On 13 February, *SABC News* reported that African National Congress (ANC) Treasurer General Zweli Mkhize says the party will put pressure on government to speed up land re-distribution.<sup>19</sup>

### **1.1.21 ANC urges black people not to accept money in exchange of land as the agrarian reform crisis in South Africa deepens**

On 13 February, *SABC News* reported that the African National Congress (ANC) in KwaZulu-Natal has conceded the pace of land redistribution is too slow.<sup>20</sup>

### **1.1.22 South Africa's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Senzeni Zokwana announces that nine pesticides have now been registered to spray against the Fall Armyworm**

On 13 February, *SABC News* reported that Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) Senzeni Zokwana says nine pesticides have now been registered to spray against the Fall Armyworm.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Uptick in money flow augurs well for SA's economy, Liesl Peyper, Fin24, 13 February 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/uptick-in-money-flow-augurs-well-for-sas-economy-20170213>

<sup>17</sup> SA's bulk exports fall 6.5% year on year in January, Dominic Preuss, Business Day, 13 February 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-02-13-sas-bulk-exports-fall-65-year-on-year-in-january/>

<sup>18</sup> Pressure mounts on SADC region to deal with fall armyworm infestation, Thando Kubheka, Eyewitness News, 13 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/13/pressure-mounts-on-sadc-region-to-deal-with-fall-armyworm-infestation>

<sup>19</sup> ANC pushes for land re-distribution, Vusi Makhosini, SABC News, 13 February 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/e899bb00400d757e8168eb75889f6f7e/ANC-pushes-for-land-re-distribution-20171302ANC-pushes-for-land-re-distribution-20171302>

<sup>20</sup> ANC urges black people not to accept money in exchange of land, Mlungisi Khumalo, SABC News, 13 February 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/d4f2b080400e807b8a86eb75889f6f7e/ANC-urge-black-people-not-to-accept-money-in-exchange-of-land-20171302>

<sup>21</sup> Nine pesticides registered to spray Fall Army Worm, SABC News, 13 February 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/bff06600400e4345a91beb75889f6f7e/Nine-pesticides-registered-to-spray-Fall-Army-Worm-20171302>

### **1.1.23 A combination of native African armyworms and Fall armyworms from the Americas are ravaging staple crops across Southern Africa, and if uncontrolled, they have the potential to cause major food shortages**

On 13 February, *The Conversation* reported that a combination of native African armyworms and Fall armyworms from the Americas are ravaging staple crops across southern Africa- if uncontrolled, they have the potential to cause major food shortages.<sup>22</sup>

### **1.1.24 South Africa's Premier Foods and Fishing to list in March**

On 13 February, *IOL Business* reported that Premier Foods and Fishing, a subsidiary of African Equity Empowerment Investments, will list on March 2 under the code PFF.<sup>23</sup>

### **1.1.25 Western Cape Agriculture Department announces that it is engaging with farmers to ensure that the fall armyworm doesn't spread to the province- the pest has been detected in maize crops in Limpopo, the North West, Gauteng and the Free State**

On 14 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that the Western Cape Agriculture Department says it is engaging with farmers to ensure that the fall armyworm doesn't spread to the province- the pest has been detected in maize crops in Limpopo, the North West, Gauteng and the Free State.<sup>24</sup>

### **1.1.26 South Africa's government announces that it is planning to focus its efforts to help smallholder farmers to increase their access to markets in the year ahead**

On 12 February, *South African Government News* reported that government is planning to focus its efforts to help smallholder farmers to increase their access to markets in the year ahead.<sup>25</sup>

### **1.1.27 Slight drop in South Africa's unemployment rate amid slow growth**

On 14 February, *Fin24* reported that the results of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey for the fourth quarter of 2016 released by Statistics South Africa on Tuesday indicate that employment grew by 235

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<sup>22</sup> Armyworms are wreaking havoc in southern Africa: Why it's a big deal, *The Conversation*, 13 February 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/512f5180400db3909db2ff75889f6f7e/Armyworms-are-wreaking-havoc-in-southern-Africa.-Why-it's-a-big-deal-20171302>

<sup>23</sup> Premier Foods and Fishing to list in March, *IOL Business Reporter*, 13 February 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/business-report/companies/premier-foods-and-fishing-to-list-in-march-7739467>

<sup>24</sup> WC officials working with farmers to prevent armyworm infiltration, Kevin Brandt, *Eyewitness News*, 14 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/14/wc-officials-working-with-farmers-to-prevent-armyworm-infiltration>

<sup>25</sup> Smallholder farmers to gain more access to markets, *South African Government News*, 12 February 2017, <http://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/smallholder-farmers-gain-more-access-markets>

000 and the number of job seekers declined by 92 000, resulting in a slight decline in the official unemployment rate by 0.6 of percentage point to 26.5%.<sup>26</sup>

### **1.1.28 Emergency meeting in Zimbabwe warns of huge armyworm threat to food supplies across several African countries**

On 14 February, *eNCA* reported that international experts at emergency UN talks in Harare warned on Tuesday that crop-eating armyworm caterpillars posed a serious threat to food supplies across several African countries.<sup>27</sup>

### **1.1.29 Fall armyworms invade agricultural sector in six provinces in South Africa**

On 14 February, *SABC News* reported that six provinces have confirmed that armyworms are beginning to wreak havoc among their agricultural sector. The crop eating pests have recently spread to South Africa from some of the neighbouring countries.<sup>28</sup>

### **1.1.30 Land invasion threat in Johannesburg reflect the deepening land crisis in South Africa**

On 14 February, *TMG Digital* reported that residents of Rabie Ridge in Midrand are concerned about what a Johannesburg councillor is calling “a carefully orchestrated attempt of land invasion”.<sup>29</sup>

### **1.1.31 Ten firearms seized in raid on Klipfontein farm in KwaZulu-Natal amid surge in farm attacks in South Africa**

On 13 February, *African News Agency* reported that KwaZulu-Natal police have arrested 13 suspects for possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition at Klipfontein farm in the Gluckstadt area.<sup>30</sup>

### **1.1.32 Manhunt for killers of Limpopo farmer amid spike in farm murders in South Africa**

On 14 February, *TMG Digital/The Times* reported that Limpopo police have launched a manhunt for the killers of a 36-year-old farmer near Bela Bela on Monday night.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Slight drop in SA's unemployment rate, Fin24, 14 February 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/slight-drop-in-unemployment-rate-20170214-3>

<sup>27</sup> Emergency meeting warns of 'huge' armyworm threat, eNCA, 14 February 2017, <http://www.enca.com/africa/emergency-meeting-warns-of-huge-armyworm-threat>

<sup>28</sup> Fall armyworms invade agricultural sector in six provinces, Zalene Merrington, SABC News, 14 February 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/aa00a00040122116978cff75889f6f7e/Fall-armyworms-invade-agricultural-sector-in-six-provinces-20171402>

<sup>29</sup> Land invasion threat highlighted in Rabie Ridge, TMG Digital, 14 February 2017, <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2017/02/14/land-invasion-threat-highlighted-in-rabie-ridge>

<sup>30</sup> 10 firearms seized in raid on Klipfontein farm, Songezo Ndlendle, African News Agency, 13 February 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/10-firearms-seized-in-raid-on-klipfontein-farm-7742000>

<sup>31</sup> Manhunt for killers of Limpopo farmer, Jan Bornman, TMG Digital/The Times 14 February 2017, <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2017/02/14/Manhunt-for-killers-of-Limpopo-farmer>

### **1.1.33 Cosatu deeply concerned about possible job losses due to the introduction of sugar tax in South Africa**

On 14 February, *ANA* reported that Cosatu agreed with the government that the over consumption of SSB is a national health crisis, but they are equally worried about the economic impact the proposed tax might have and that it is likely to result in thousands of job losses.<sup>32</sup>

### **1.1.34 South Africa’s Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti announces that a single law should be developed to address the issue of land restitution without compensation in the country**

On 14 February, *News24* reported that a single law should be developed to address the issue of land restitution without compensation, Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti said on Tuesday.<sup>33</sup>

### **1.1.35 South Africa’s Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan tells Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini that her plan to extend the social grant contract with Net 1 would be unlawful**

On 15 February, *Fin24tech* reported that Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan told Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini that her plan to extend a contract with a unit of Net 1 UEPS Technologies would be “unlawful,” a letter obtained by Bloomberg shows.<sup>34</sup>

### **1.1.36 Four family members murdered on Mpumalanga farm as farm attacks continue to haunt South Africa**

On 15 February, *Netwerk24* reported that the farming community is in shock after four members of the same family were shot dead on a farm outside Balfour in Mpumalanga.<sup>35</sup>

### **1.1.37 South Africa’s risk of a credit rating downgrade to junk status increases amid growing economic and political uncertainty**

On 15 February, *Fin24* reported that South Africa is on a “knife edge” when it comes to the risk of a rating downgrade to junk status, according to Standard Bank chief economist Goolam Ballim.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Cosatu ‘deeply concerned’ about possible job losses due to sugar tax, ANA, 14 February 2017, <http://citizen.co.za/business/1427697/cosatu-deeply-concerned-about-possible-job-losses-due-to-sugar-tax/>

<sup>33</sup> SA needs a law addressing land restitution without compensation – Nkwinti, Thulani Gqirana, News24, 14 February 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/sa-needs-a-law-addressing-land-restitution-without-compensation-nkwinti-20170214>

<sup>34</sup> Gordhan says extending Net 1 welfare deal is unlawful, Amogelang Mbatha, Fin24tech, 15 February 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Tech/News/gordhan-says-extending-net-1-welfare-deal-is-unlawful-20170215>

<sup>35</sup> 4 family members murdered on Mpumalanga farm, Marietie Louw-Carstens & Alet Joubert, Netwerk24, 15 February 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/4-family-members-murdered-on-mpumalanga-farm-20170215>

<sup>36</sup> SA economy is running out of road – economist, Gareth van Zyl, Fin24, 15 February 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Budget/sa-economy-is-running-out-of-road-economist-20170215>

### **1.1.38 AA Automobile Association expects South Africa's petrol price to increase by between three and four cents a litre in March following February's 29c price hike**

On 15 February, *Fin24* reported that the Automobile Association (AA) expects the petrol price to increase by between three and four cents a litre in March following February's 29c price hike.<sup>37</sup>

### **1.1.39 Slight drop in South Africa's inflation amid slow economic growth**

On 15 February, *Fin24* reported that annual consumer price inflation was 6.6% in January 2017, down from 6.8% in December 2016. Statistics South Africa announced on Wednesday.<sup>38</sup>

### **1.1.40 Limpopo community wins millions in land claim as the land debate intensifies in South Africa**

On 15 February, *News24* reported that a Limpopo community dispossessed of its land four decades ago will this week receive R35.3m as compensation for damages it suffered during forced evictions.<sup>39</sup>

### **1.1.41 The EFF claims that ANC's recent announcement on land restitution without compensation proves that the EFF polices are right**

On 15 February, *Sowetan Live* reported that the African National Congress (ANC) recent announcement on land restitution without compensation proves that the Economic Freedom Fighters' (EFF) polices are right.<sup>40</sup>

### **1.1.42 World Bank sees very fragile recovery for South Africa's economy amid rising political uncertainty in the country**

On 15 February, *Business Day* reported that the World Bank sees a modest and very fragile recovery for the South African economy this year off a low base, one of its officials said in Parliament on Wednesday.<sup>41</sup>

### **1.1.43 South Africa's retail sales edge slightly higher in December**

On 15 February, *Business Day* reported that the heavy promotion of Black Friday sales in November led to a shift in shopping patterns in 2016.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>37</sup>Rand strength to ease petrol price hike in March – AA, *Fin24*, 15 February 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/rand-strength-to-ease-petrol-price-hike-in-march-aa-20170215>

<sup>38</sup> Slight drop in inflation, *Fin24*, 15 February 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/slight-drop-in-inflation-20170215>

<sup>39</sup> Limpopo community wins millions in land claim, Chester Makana, *News24* Correspondent, 15 February 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/limpopo-community-wins-millions-in-land-claim-20170215>

<sup>40</sup> 'ANC realises EFF is winning the land debate', says Ndlozi, Kgothatso Madisa, *Sowetan Live*, 15 February 2017, <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2017/02/15/anc-realises-eff-is-winning-the-land-debate-says-ndlozi>

<sup>41</sup> World Bank sees 'very fragile' recovery for SA's economy, Linda Ensor, *Business Day*, 15 February 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-02-15-world-bank-sees-very-fragile-recovery-for-sas-economy/>

#### **1.1.44 South Africa's Rural and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti announces that the willing-buyer, willing-seller policy will no longer be used as the Valuer-General will now determine land prices**

On 15 February, *Business Day* reported that Rural and land reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti says willing-buyer, willing-seller policy will no longer be used.<sup>43</sup>

#### **1.1.45 Stats SA's Quarterly Labour Force Survey shows that jobless rate has gone down but mines still bleeding jobs as the mining sector shed 65,000 jobs since the last quarter of 2015**

On 15 February, *Business Day* reported that mining has shed 65,000 jobs since the last quarter of 2015, Stats SA's Quarterly Labour Force Survey shows.<sup>44</sup>

#### **1.1.46 Locusts breeding in central Zambia may pose a bigger threat to farmers in Southern Africa than the fall armyworm that's ravaged crops this year**

On 15 February, *Bloomberg* reported that locusts breeding in central Zambia may pose a bigger threat to farmers in southern Africa than the fall armyworm that's ravaged crops this year, according to an organisation that combats the pests.<sup>45</sup>

#### **1.1.47 The outlook for South Africa's civil construction and building sectors is negative, with declining tender activity in both sectors**

On 15 February, *IOL Business* reported that the outlook for the civil construction and building sectors is negative, with declining tender activity in both sectors, according to Industry Insight, which provides project lead information to the construction industry.<sup>46</sup>

#### **1.1.48 South Africa's Deputy Minister for Public Service and Administration Ayanda Dlodlo says that the ANC should use its majority in the -government to push for the expropriation of land without compensation, because it was stolen in the first place**

On 14 February, *Daily News* reported that the ANC should use its majority in the -government to push for the expropriation of land without compensation, because it was "stolen in the first place", Deputy Minister for Public Service and Administration Ayanda Dlodlo said on Monday.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> SA's retail sales edge slightly higher in December, Sunita Menon, *Business Day*, 15 February 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-02-15-sas-retail-sales-edge-slightly-higher-in-december/>

<sup>43</sup> Valuer-general to determine land prices, says Nkwinti, Bekezela Phakathi, *Business Day*, 15 February 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2017-02-15-valuer-general-to-determine-land-prices-says-nkwinti/>

<sup>44</sup> Jobless rate down but mines still bleeding, Sunita Menon and Asha Speckman, *Business Day*, 15 February 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-02-15-jobless-rate-down-but-mines-still-bleeding/>

<sup>45</sup> The threat that's worse than Armyworms, Matthew Hill and Godfrey Marawanyika, *Bloomberg*, 15 February 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/business-report/economy/the-threat-thats-worse-than-armyworms-7767799>

<sup>46</sup> Tender activity dips in building sector, Roy Cokayne, *IOL Business Report*, 15 February 2015, <http://www.iol.co.za/business-report/economy/tender-activity-dips-in-building-sector-7766183>

### **1.1.49 Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies says government has established a task team to address challenges in South Africa's poultry industry**

On 15 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies says government has established a task team to address challenges in the poultry industry.<sup>48</sup>

### **1.1.50 South Africa's Consumer Goods Council says the lack of scientific research for government wanting to introduce a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages is one of its key concerns**

On 15 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that the Consumer Goods Council says the lack of scientific research for government wanting to introduce a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages is one of its key concerns.<sup>49</sup>

### **1.1.51 Pioneer Foods says 100% fruit juices complement healthy eating and cannot be equated to sugary drinks as the sugar tax debate rages on in South Africa**

On 14 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that the company says 100% fruit juices complement healthy eating and cannot be equated to sugary drinks.<sup>50</sup>

### **1.1.52 Rising food prices could hamper inflation rate decline in South Africa amid persistent drought**

On 15 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that Nedbank economist Mohammed Nalla says the higher than anticipated food inflation could hamper the inflation rate from declining by as much as predicted.<sup>51</sup>

### **1.1.53 Afriforum bemoans number of farm attacks in South Africa**

On 15 February, *eNCA* reported that Afriforum representatives have brought attention to the number of farm attacks which have occurred nationally in February.<sup>52</sup>

### **1.1.54 South Africa is facing a possible national disaster over the fall armyworm invasion, which could see a devastating effect on sub-Saharan crop production**

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<sup>47</sup> Take back stolen land, says deputy minister, Bongani Hans, Daily News, 14 February 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/take-back-stolen-land-says-deputy-minister-7754986>

<sup>48</sup> Task team set up to address poultry industry challenges-Davies, Kevin Brandt, Eyewitness News, 15 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/15/task-team-established-to-address-challenges-in-poultry-industry>

<sup>49</sup> Lack of scientific research a key concern in sugar tax talks, Lindsay Dentlinger, Eyewitness News, 15 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/15/lack-of-scientific-research-a-key-concern-in-sugar-tax-talks>

<sup>50</sup> Pioneer Foods: Don't subject fruit juice to sugar tax, Lindsay Dentlinger, Eyewitness News, 14 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/14/pioneer-foods-don-t-subject-fruit-juice-to-sugar-tax>

<sup>51</sup> Economist: Rising food prices could hamper inflation rate decline, Ilze-Marie Le Roux, Eyewitness News, 15 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/15/experts-rising-food-price-bound-hamper-inflation-rate-decline>

<sup>52</sup> Afriforum bemoans number of farm attacks, eNCA, 15 February 2017, <http://www.enca.com/south-africa/afriforum-bemoans-number-of-farm-attacks>



On 15 February, *City Press* reported that South Africa is facing a possible national disaster over the fall armyworm invasion, which could see a devastating effect on sub-Saharan crop production.<sup>53</sup>

#### **1.1.55 South African Post Office denies links to Sassa grants bid as the social grant debacle escalates**

On 15 February, *Bloomberg* reported that reports linking the South African Post Office (SAPO) to a bid for South Africa Social Security Agency (Sassa) grants to “CPS, Net1 or any other parties are not true”.<sup>54</sup>

#### **1.1.56 SADC leaders meet to tackle armyworm invasion amid growing food insecurity in Southern Africa**

On 16 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that as Southern African Development Community (SADC) leaders meet over the fall armyworm and other pests, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (AO) says the aim of the gathering is to assess the damage and discuss emergency plans.<sup>55</sup>

#### **1.1.57 AfriBusiness opposes land expropriation without compensation as the land question in South Africa remains unresolved**

On 15 February, *The Citizen* reported that Afribusiness, a lobby group for the Afrikaans business community, said on Wednesday that it was strongly opposing attempts by government to expropriate land without compensation.<sup>56</sup>

#### **1.1.58 The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) calls for the restoration of farmer-commandos amid surge in farm attacks in South Africa**

On 15 February, *African News Agency* reported that reacting to the murder of four people at a Mpumalanga farm, the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) on Wednesday called for the restoration of farmer-commandos or rural security forces, saying these killings were "unacceptable".<sup>57</sup>

#### **1.1.59 South Africa's Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan issues a statement to deny reports that he was heading for conflict with Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini over the crisis threatening welfare grant payments to the poor**

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<sup>53</sup> Armyworm could cause national disaster — DA, Grain SA, Avantika Seeth, *City Press*, 15 February 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/tax-incentives-in-sa-will-reduce-poverty-world-bank-20170216>

<sup>54</sup> Mark Barnes denies Post Office links to Sassa grants bid, *Bloomberg*, 15 February 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Tech/News/markbarnes-denies-post-office-links-to-sassa-grants-bid-20170215>

<sup>55</sup> SADC leaders meet to tackle armyworm invasion, Ziyanda Ngcobo, *Eyewitness News*, 16 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/16/sadc-leaders-meet-to-tackle-armyworm-invasion>

<sup>56</sup> AfriBusiness opposes land expropriation without compensation, *African News Agency*, *The Citizen*, 15 February 2017, <http://citizen.co.za/news/news-national/1428913/afribusiness-opposes-land-expropriation-without-compensation/>

<sup>57</sup> Modderbult farm murders: Bring back commandos, says ACDP, Thembelihle Mkhonza, *African News Agency*, 15 February 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/modderbult-farm-murders-bring-back-commandos-says-acdp-7774932>

On 15 February, *African News Agency* reported that Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan on Wednesday issued a statement to deny reports that he was heading for conflict with Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini over the crisis threatening welfare grant payments to the poor.<sup>58</sup>

#### **1.1.60 Agriculture, a key contributor to South Africa's economy, shows growth in labour participation, but the armyworm outbreak poses a significant risk**

On 16 February, *Business Day* reported that agriculture, a key contributor to SA's economy, shows growth in labour participation, but the armyworm outbreak poses a significant risk.<sup>59</sup>

#### **1.1.61 South Africa concerned about Fall armyworms in sugarcane crops amid persistent drought**

An outbreak of fall armyworms that has attacked corn plants in South Africa may spread to sugarcane in the KwaZulu-Natal province, where a warm climate would help the pest survive through the year, the Agricultural Research Council said.<sup>60</sup>

#### **1.1.62 South Africa's farmers are tired of being called land thieves and are willing to produce their title deeds to show that they are not guilty**

Farmers are tired of being called land thieves and are willing to produce their title deeds to show that they are not guilty, the president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) said on Thursday.<sup>61</sup>

#### **1.1.63 President Jacob Zuma says that his government does not hate white people, but land must be returned to the black majority in South Africa**

Land will be returned to the people, President Jacob Zuma asserted on Thursday, during his reply to the State of the Nation Address debate.<sup>62</sup>

#### **1.1.64 Survey shows that government, media and business distrust amongst South Africans is at an all-time high amid growing political and economic uncertainty in the country**

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<sup>58</sup> Grant crisis: There is no row with Dlamini, says Gordhan, Emsie Ferreira, African News Agency, 15 February 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/grant-crisis-there-is-no-row-with-dlamini-says-gordhan-7776706>

<sup>59</sup> WANDILE SIHLOBO: Why SA's major employer, agriculture, is poised for a better year, Wandile Sihlobo, Business Day, 16 February 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2017-02-16-wandile-sihlobo-why-sas-major-employer-agriculture-is-poised-for-a-better-year/>

<sup>60</sup> South Africa Concerned About Fall Armyworms in Sugarcane Crops, Matthew Hill, Bloomberg, 16 February 2017, [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-02-16/south-africa-concerned-about-fall-armyworms-in-sugarcane-crops-iz8cu7y2?utm\\_content=africa&utm\\_campaign=socialflow-organic&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=social&cmpid%3D=socialflow-twitter-africa](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-02-16/south-africa-concerned-about-fall-armyworms-in-sugarcane-crops-iz8cu7y2?utm_content=africa&utm_campaign=socialflow-organic&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&cmpid%3D=socialflow-twitter-africa)

<sup>61</sup> Stop calling farmers land thieves - Transvaal Agricultural Union, Jenni Evans, News24, 16 February 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/stop-calling-farmers-land-thieves-transvaal-agricultural-union-20170216>

<sup>62</sup> We don't hate white people, but land must be returned – Zuma, Thulani Gqirana, News24, 16 February 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/we-dont-hate-white-people-but-land-must-be-returned-zuma-20170216>

Government, media and business distrust is at an all-time high, according to a survey conducted by global communications marketing firm Edelman.<sup>63</sup>

#### **1.1.65 Sixteen East and Southern African countries have agreed on urgent plans to tackle armyworm and avian flu**

Sixteen east and southern African countries have agreed on urgent plans to tackle armyworm and avian flu.<sup>64</sup>

#### **1.1.66 Rising sea temperatures are shaping tropical storms in Southern Africa amid increasing food insecurity**

Studies over the past half century in southern Africa show that there's been a southward shift in tropical cyclones in the region, and in particular the location of their landfall.<sup>65</sup>

#### **1.1.67 ANCWL rejects proposal for banks to pay out social grants in South Africa**

The ANC Women's League (ANCWL) has rejected any proposal that the payment of social grants be outsourced to one of the major commercial banks.<sup>66</sup>

#### **1.1.68 The social grants crisis in South Africans threatens the food security of poor households in the country**

The South African government's failure to fix a corrupted R10 billion social grant payment contract has caused a crisis that threatens to disturb monthly payments to millions of vulnerable households.<sup>67</sup>

#### **1.1.69 South Africa's Deputy Minister for Agriculture Bheki Cele says agriculture remains one of the main pillars of the South African economy that is yet to be fully transformed**

Agriculture remains one of the main pillars of the South African economy that is yet to be fully transformed.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> Only 15% of South Africans trust the government, Avantika Seeth, City Press, 16 February 2017, <http://city-press.news24.com/News/only-15-of-south-africans-trust-the-government-20170216>

<sup>64</sup> East and southern Africa join forces against armyworm, eNCA, 17 February 2017, <http://www.enca.com/south-africa/east-and-southern-african-agrees-to-tackle-armyworm>

<sup>65</sup> Rising sea temperatures are shaping tropical storms in southern Africa, The Conversation Africa, 17 February 2017, <http://www.enca.com/south-africa/rising-sea-temperatures-are-shaping-tropical-storms-in-southern-africa>

<sup>66</sup> ANCWL rejects proposal for banks to pay out grants, eNCA, 17 February 2017, <http://www.enca.com/south-africa/dlamini-rejects-treasurys-social-grants-proposal-report>

<sup>67</sup> Why social grants matter in South Africa: they support 33% of the nation, Jannie Rossouw, Sowetan Live, 17 February 2017, <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2017/02/17/why-social-grants-matter-in-south-africa-they-support-33-of-the-nation>

<sup>68</sup> Agriculture is crucial to SA economy: Bheki Cele, Sherwin Bryce-Pease, SABC News, 17 February 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/11ec95004019cef0ac72ef75889f6f7e/Agriculture-is-crucial-to-SA-economy:-Bheki-Cele-20171702>

### **1.1.70 Quarterly labour force statistics released by statistics South Africa shows that the unemployment rate remains high in Eastern Cape**

The recent quarterly labour force statistics released by statistics South Africa shows that Eastern Cape remains in the doldrums of unemployment crisis.<sup>69</sup>

## **1.2 Water Security**

### **1.2.1 Running water returns to Qwaqwa in Eastern Cape after two drought stricken years**

On 10 February, *SABC News* reported that after two drought stricken years, people in Qwaqwa, in the Eastern Free State have running water in their taps again.<sup>70</sup>

### **1.2.2 South Africa's Department of Water and Sanitation reported to be bankrupt and R4.3 billion in the red, leaving hundreds of contractors unpaid for at least seven months**

On 12 February, *City Press* reported that the department of water and sanitation is broke. The critical department is now R4.3 billion in the red, leaving hundreds of contractors unpaid for at least seven months.<sup>71</sup>

### **1.2.3 Mpumalanga becomes that battleground for the preservation of South Africa's water resources**

On 12 February, *City Press* reported that conflict surrounds the go-ahead given by government for a coal mine to be established near Wakkerstroom in Mpumalanga as mining interests are pitted against those of environmentalists campaigning for the preservation of South Africa's scarce water resources.<sup>72</sup>

### **1.2.4 City of Cape Town is urges borehole water consumers to irrigate responsibly as the drought in South Africa bites**

On 12 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that the City of Cape Town is urging borehole water consumers to irrigate responsibly, as they put the sustainability of the resource at risk.<sup>73</sup>

### **1.2.5 City of Cape Town cracks down on high water users as dam levels fall**

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<sup>69</sup> Unemployment rate remains high in Eastern Cape, TNA Reporter, 16 February 2017, <http://www.thenewage.co.za/unemployment-rate-remains-high-in-eastern-cape/>

<sup>70</sup> Running water returns to relieve Qwaqwa, Aphumelele Mdlalane, SABC News, 10 February 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/d826b5004005e108a927eb0fcc0fb1a3/Running-water-returns-to-relieve-Qwaqwa-20171002>

<sup>71</sup> Nomvula Mokonyane's water department is bankrupt, Siphon Masondo, City Press, 12 February 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/nomvula-mokonyanes-water-department-is-bankrupt-20170211>

<sup>72</sup> Battleground to preserve SA's water resources, Yolandi Groenewald, City Press, 12 February 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/South-Africa/battleground-to-preserve-sas-water-resources-20170210>

<sup>73</sup> Borehole water consumers warned again in CT, Eduard De Kock, Eyewitness News, 12 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/12/borehole-water-consumers-warned-again-in-ct>

On 11 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that more than 220 fines and 380 warnings have been issued since restrictions came into effect on 1 February.<sup>74</sup>

### **1.2.6 Democratic Alliance to request the Auditor General Kimi Makwetu to launch an investigation into the alleged gross mismanagement of funds by Water Affairs Minister Nomvula Mokonyane**

On 12 February, *SABC News* reported that the Democratic Alliance (DA) says it will request the Auditor General Kimi Makwetu to launch an investigation into the alleged gross mismanagement of funds by Water Affairs Minister Nomvula Mokonyane.<sup>75</sup>

### **1.2.7 The days of water wasting in South Africa are over as drought crisis deepens**

On 11 February, *Weekend Argus* reported that the days of water wasting are over.<sup>76</sup>

### **1.2.8 Acid Mine Drainage remains a serious threat to water security in South Africa**

On 11 February, *Saturday Star* reported that the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has been accused of “authorising pollution”, after its water quality tests for its acid mine drainage (AMD) plants in the Witwatersrand surpassed the government’s own water resource quality objectives.<sup>77</sup>

### **1.2.9 Years of good rains needed in KwaZulu-Natal for dams to fully recover from the devastating drought**

On 11 February, *The Independent on Saturday* reported that Durban residents frustrated at water shut-offs would have to wait at least a few more months before they could see the end of dry taps, but it would take several years of good rains for dams to fully recover.<sup>78</sup>

### **1.2.10 City of Cape Town toughens water restrictions as twenty nine of its municipal swimming pools will be closed from Monday until Thursday in an effort to save water**

On 13 February, *SABC News* reported that twenty nine of the City of Cape Town municipal swimming pools will be closed from Monday until Thursday in an effort to save water.<sup>79</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> City of CT cracks down on high water users in Somerset West, Eduard De Kock, *Eyewitness News*, 11 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/11/city-of-ct-cracks-down-on-high-water-users-in-somerset-west>

<sup>75</sup> DA calls for investigation into Mokonyane, Nomsa Mdhuli, *SABC News*, 12 February 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/2df22380400b9526bcc5ff75889f6f7e/DA-call-for-investigation-into-Mokonyane-20171202>

<sup>76</sup> The days of water wasting are over, Michael Morris, *Weekend Argus*, 11 February 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/western-cape/the-days-of-water-wasting-are-over-7710606>

<sup>77</sup> Residents left in dark over acid mine drainage treatment, Sheree Bega, *Saturday Star*, 11 February 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/gauteng/residents-left-in-dark-over-acid-mine-drainage-treatment-7709811>

<sup>78</sup> Years of good rains needed in KZN, Arthi Gopi, *The Independent on Saturday*, 11 February 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/years-of-good-rains-needed-in-kzn-7710626>

### **1.2.11 Cape Town residents deaf to pleas to use less water as usage increased by nearly 20 million litres per day in one week**

On 13 February, *News24* reported that a “monumental effort” is needed to decrease Cape Town’s water consumption after usage increased by nearly 20 million litres per day in one week, the city said on Monday.<sup>80</sup>

### **1.2.12 Dam levels near rock bottom as Cape Town urges monumental effort to save water amid severe drought**

On 14 February, *Traveller 24* reported that the water crisis in Cape Town is dire as dam levels have dropped below 37%.<sup>81</sup>

### **1.2.13 Cape Town only has around 135 days of usable water left as South Africa’s drought crisis deepens**

On 14 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that Cape Town only has around 135 days of usable water left. Daily water consumption has been cut to 700 million litres as the municipality and residents grapple with a drought. Dam levels have dropped to just over 26%.<sup>82</sup>

### **1.2.14 No water for three days in Northriding, Johannesburg due to urgent water pipe repairs as South Africa’s ailing water infrastructure struggles amid persistent drought**

On 14 February, *The Star* reported that Northriding and surrounding areas will be without water for the following three days.<sup>83</sup>

### **1.2.15 Western Cape provincial government announces that it has enough water to next rainy season amid persistent drought in South Africa**

On 14 February, *News24* reported that the Western Cape has enough water until the next rainy season, the province’s local government MEC said on Tuesday.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> Cape Town toughens water restrictions, SABC News, 13 February 2017,

<http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/c09c1180400e100f8dd2ef75889f6f7e/Cape-Town-toughens-water-restrictions-20171302>

<sup>80</sup> Cape Town deaf to pleas to use less water, James de Villiers, News24, 13 February 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/cape-town-deaf-to-pleas-to-use-less-water-20170213>

<sup>81</sup> #BeWaterWise: Dam levels near rock bottom as Cape Town urges monumental effort to save water, Selene Brophy, Traveller 24, 14 February 2017, <http://traveller24.news24.com/Explore/Green/bewaterwise-dam-levels-near-rock-bottom-as-cape-town-urges-monumental-effort-to-save-water-20170214>

<sup>82</sup> CT only has around 135 days of usable water left, Kevin Brandt, Eyewitness News, 14 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/14/ct-only-has-around-135-days-of-usable-water-left>

<sup>83</sup> No water for Northriding and surrounds for three days, Anna Cox, The Star, 14 February 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/gauteng/no-water-for-northriding-and-surrounds-for-three-days-7752774>

### **1.2.16 Cape Town water crisis deepens as water red alert restrictions kick in as dam levels reach crisis point**

On 15 February, *Weekend Argus* reported that the City of Cape Town's water red alert restrictions have kicked in and dam levels are close to crisis point, say officials.<sup>85</sup>

### **1.2.17 City of Cape Town to name and shame water offenders as dam levels fall into the crisis zone**

On 15 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that the City of Cape Town says it will name and shame residents who do not adhere to water restrictions.<sup>86</sup>

### **1.2.18 Western Cape government reiterates that Cape Town residents must change their water consumption habits urgently or face a full blown crisis**

On 15 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that the Western Cape government has reiterated that Cape Town residents must change their water consumption habits urgently or face a full blown crisis.<sup>87</sup>

### **1.2.19 Western Cape government announces that the dam levels have dropped to below 35%, 10% lower than the same time last year**

On 14 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that the Western Cape government says dam levels have dropped to below 35%, 10% lower than the same time last year.<sup>88</sup>

### **1.2.20 City of Tshwane imposes water restrictions to residents following a warning from the City's water supplier to effect water rationing**

On 16 February, *Eyewitness News* reported that the City of Tshwane has imposed water restrictions to residents following a warning from the City's water supplier to effect water rationing.<sup>89</sup>

### **1.2.21 Western Cape government urges cautious approach to the province's water shortage amid protest against desalination**

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<sup>84</sup> Western Cape has enough water to next rainy season – MEC, James de Villiers, News24, 14 February 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/wcape-has-enough-water-to-next-rainy-season-mec-20170214>

<sup>85</sup> Cape water crisis deepens, Theolin Tembo, Weekend Argus, 15 February 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/weekend-argus/cape-water-crisis-deepens-7765660>

<sup>86</sup> City of CT to name & shame water offenders, Shimoneyr, Eyewitness News, 15 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/15/city-of-ct-to-name-and-shame-water-offenders>

<sup>87</sup> CT warned: Save water or face a full blown crisis, Monique Mortlock, Eyewitness News, 15 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/15/ct-warned-save-water-or-face-a-full-blown-crisis>

<sup>88</sup> WC dam levels plummet to below 35%, Monique Mortlock, Eyewitness News, 14 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/14/dam-levels-plummet-to-below-35>

<sup>89</sup> Tshwane residents hit by water restrictions, Pelane Phakgadi, Eyewitness News, 16 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/16/tshwane-residents-hit-by-water-restrictions>

The future of the Western Cape's water supply was the subject of heated debate on Thursday, after protesters against desalination addressed local government MEC Anton Bredell.<sup>90</sup>

### **1.2.22 South Africa's Department of Water and Sanitation announces that dam levels have decreased in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and the Western Cape amid persistent drought**

The Department of Water and Sanitation says that of the nine provinces in the country, dam levels have decreased in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and the Western Cape.<sup>91</sup>

### **1.2.23 Western Cape government announces that a study has shown that provincial water demands will exceed the current supply in 2019**

The Western Cape government says a study has shown that provincial water demands will exceed the current supply in 2019.<sup>92</sup>

### **1.2.24 Western Cape government announces that desalination should be the last resort in addressing water shortages in the province due to cost and other factors**

The Western Cape local government department says desalination should be the last resort in addressing water shortages in the province due to cost and other factors.<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> Bredell urges cautious approach to Western Cape water shortage, Jenna Etheridge, News24, 16 February 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/bredell-urges-cautious-approach-to-western-cape-water-shortage-20170216>

<sup>91</sup> DWS: We are losing the traction we've gained, Masego Rahlaga, Eyewitness News, 17 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/16/sa-dam-levels-rise-bar-gauteng-mpumalanga-and-wc>

<sup>92</sup> WC seeks long term interventions for water security, Monique Mortlock, Eyewitness News, 17 February 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/02/16/wc-water-supply-at-risk-of-running-short-by-2019>

<sup>93</sup> Desalination not the answer to W Cape water woes, Mariska Botha, SABC News, 16 February 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/81325e8040185bb19467ff75889f6f7e/Desalination-not-the-answer-to-WC-water-woes-20171602>



## 2.0 Daily Infographics: Invasive Armyworm could cause mass starvation in Southern Africa amid persistent drought



Figure 1. Invasive Armyworm could cause mass starvation in Southern Africa amid persistent drought (Source: AgriFoodAID)

### 3.0 Overall Assessment

- ❖ The armyworm invasion, rabies outbreak, persistent farm attacks, inadequate drought relief for farmers, severe drought and decline in total maize production in South Africa are significantly contributing to the increasing levels of food insecurity in the country
- ❖ Water supply and water quality deteriorate as drought takes its toll in South Africa
- ❖ South Africa's social grant crisis is exposing poor households to deeper food insecurity amid slow growth and persistent drought
- ❖ South Africa's land crisis remains unresolved amid increasing pressure on government to decisively act on the issue

- ❖ **The persistent drought in South Africa is now a major threat to food and water security in the country and a more robust response to this crisis by all stakeholders is becoming imperative before the situation deteriorates further.**