

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

**1 July – 7 July 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 Weekly Trends, Themes and Issues**

- **South Africa's land crisis deepens as the ANC Women's League supports a call for a referendum on land to be redistributed without compensation**
- **North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo calls for a referendum on amending the Constitution to allow for the expropriation of land without compensation in South Africa**
- **South Africa's President Jacob Zuma could call a referendum on whether the government should expropriate land without compensation**
- **South Africa ranks dismally on personal safety in global index amid growing socio-political and economic uncertainty in the country**
- **Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema dismisses land invasion charges against him as a rouse to stifle the land debate in South Africa, as he seeks a High Court order to declare the land invasion charges unconstitutional**
- **President Jacob Zuma signs a proclamation authorising the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to investigate the Land Department's acquisition of certain farms and the identification, selection and appointment of the strategic partners and beneficiaries for such farms in a manner that was not fair**
- **Small Business Development Minister and Head of the ANC's Drafting Committee, Lindiwe Zulu says land redistribution in South Africa has become a critical issue**
- **South Africa's private sector activity drops to a 14-month low in June as political instability, high unemployment and credit-rating downgrades hit business and consumer confidence in the country**
- **ANC Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe says that the push for expropriation of land without compensation is such a radical policy shift that it is likely to plunge the country into deeper crisis**

- **IMF keeps growth projection for the South African economy at 1% for 2017 due to little room for fiscal and monetary policy instruments to boost the economy**
- **Cape Town dam levels still critically low at 25.3%, with only 15.3% of the water usable**
- **City of Cape Town warns residents to conserve more water as a harsh summer is predicted for the city in 2018**
- **George's habitual water wasters may be slapped with penalties of up to R4 000 or six months in jail as the George Municipality implements fines for repeat offenders**
- **Dark City residents in Bushbuckridge in Mpumalanga, protest after sharing one tap for two decades as water security remains a major problem in South Africa**
- **Water restrictors to be installed to curb excessive water use in Cape Town as drought bites**
- **Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille to engage taxi industry, car washes to use waterless cleaning products as the drought crisis deepens**

## **1.1 Food Security**

### **1.1.1 South Africa's land crisis deepens as the ANC Women's League supports a call for a referendum on land to be redistributed without compensation**

On 1 July, *eNCA* reported that the ANC Women's League (ANCWL) supported a call for a referendum on land expropriation without compensation.<sup>1</sup>

### **1.1.2 North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo calls for a referendum on amending the Constitution to allow for the expropriation of land without compensation in South Africa**

On 1 July, *News24* reported that North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo has called for a referendum on amending the Constitution to allow for the expropriation of land without compensation.<sup>2</sup>

### **1.1.3 South Africa's President Jacob Zuma could call a referendum on whether the government should expropriate land without compensation**

On 2 July, *Times Live* reported that President Jacob Zuma could call a referendum on whether the government should expropriate land without compensation.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Land should be redistributed without compensation: ANC Women's League, eNCA, 1 July 2017, <http://www.enca.com/south-africa/land-redistribution-without-compensation-anc-womens-league>

<sup>2</sup> Hold a referendum on land – Mahumapelo, Mahlatse Gallens, News 24, 1 July 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/hold-a-referendum-on-land-mahumapelo-20170701>

<sup>3</sup> Zuma could call for referendum on land expropriation, Moipone Malefane, Thabo Mokone and Qaanitah Hunter, Times Live, 2 July 2017, <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/news/2017-07-01-zuma-could-call-for-referendum-on-land-expropriation/>

#### **1.1.4 South Africa ranks dismally on personal safety in global index amid growing socio-political and economic uncertainty in the country**

On 3 July, *Business Day* reported that SA can brag about its high level of tolerance, but when it comes to personal safety, the country's ranking is dismal.<sup>4</sup>

#### **1.1.5 Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema dismisses land invasion charges against him as a rouse to stifle the land debate in South Africa, as he seeks a High Court order to declare the land invasion charges unconstitutional**

On 4 July, *News24* reported that Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema has dismissed land invasion charges against him as a rouse to stifle the land debate and has remained firm with the way he views the issue.<sup>5</sup>

#### **1.1.6 President Jacob Zuma signs a proclamation authorising the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to investigate the Land Department's acquisition of certain farms and the identification, selection and appointment of the strategic partners and beneficiaries for such farms in a manner that was not fair**

On 4 July, *News24* reported that President Jacob Zuma has signed a proclamation authorising the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to probe certain matters relating to the affairs of the department of rural development and land reforms.<sup>6</sup>

#### **1.1.7 Small Business Development Minister and Head of the ANC's Drafting Committee, Lindiwe Zulu says land redistribution in South Africa has become a critical issue**

On 4 July, *eNCA* reported that after 23 years of governance, the African National Congress has realised that it needed to start doing things differently, particularly on the land question, Small Business Development Minister and head of the ANC's drafting committee, Lindiwe Zulu, said on Tuesday.<sup>7</sup>

#### **1.1.8 South Africa's private sector activity drops to a 14-month low in June as political instability, high unemployment and credit-rating downgrades hit business and consumer confidence in the country**

On 5 July, *Reuters* reported that political instability, high unemployment and credit-rating downgrades have hit business and consumer confidence in South Africa.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> SA ranks dismally on personal safety in global index, Suthentira Govender, *Business Day*, 3 July 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-07-03-sa-ranks-dismally-on-personal-safety-in-global-index/>

<sup>5</sup> 'Defiant' Malema seeks High Court order to declare land invasion charges unconstitutional, Amanda Khoza, *News24*, 4 July 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/defiant-malema-seeks-high-court-order-to-declare-land-invasion-charges-unconstitutional-20170704>

<sup>6</sup> Zuma gives SIU go-ahead to investigate land department, Iavan Pijoo, *News24*, 4 July 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/zuma-gives-siu-go-ahead-to-investigate-land-department-20170704>

<sup>7</sup> Land redistribution in SA has become a critical issue – Zulu, *eNCA*, 4 July 2017, <http://www.enca.com/money/land-redistribution-in-sa-has-become-a-critical-issue-zulu>

### **1.1.9 ANC Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe says that the push for expropriation of land without compensation is such a radical policy shift that it is likely to plunge the country into deeper crisis**

On 6 July, *Sowetan* reported that the push for expropriation of land without compensation is such a radical policy shift that it is likely to plunge the country into "deeper crises".<sup>9</sup>

### **1.1.10 IMF keeps growth projection for the South African economy at 1% for 2017 due to little room for fiscal and monetary policy instruments to boost the economy**

On 6 July, *Fin24* reported that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has kept growth projection for the South African economy at 1% for 2017. The IMF said there is little room for fiscal and monetary policy instruments to boost the economy.<sup>10</sup>

## **1.2 Water Security**

### **1.2.1 Cape Town dam levels still critically low at 25.3%, with only 15.3% of the water usable**

On 4 July, *The Citizen* reported that On Monday, the City said dam storage levels were at 25.3%, yet only 15.3% of this water was usable.<sup>11</sup>

### **1.2.2 City of Cape Town warns residents to conserve more water as a harsh summer is predicted for the city in 2018**

On 4 July, *News24* reported that the City of Cape Town on Monday warned residents to conserve more water as a harsh summer is predicted for the city in 2018.<sup>12</sup>

### **1.2.3 George's habitual water wasters may be slapped with penalties of up to R4 000 or six months in jail as the George Municipality implements fines for repeat offenders**

On 4 July, *News24* reported that habitual water wasters may be slapped with penalties of up to R4 000 or six months in jail as the George Municipality this week implements fines for repeat offenders.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> SA's private sector activity drops to 14-month low in June, Reuters, 5 July 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/07/05/sa-s-private-sector-activity-drops-to-14-month-low-in-june>

<sup>9</sup> 'Land claim with no pay risky for SA', Zine George and Zingisa Mvumvu, *Sowetan*, 6 July 2017, <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2017/07/06/land-claim-with-no-pay-risky-for-sa>

<sup>10</sup> Economy at near-standstill, little room for policy boost – IMF, *Fin24*, 6 July 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/economy-at-near-standstill-little-room-for-policy-boost-imf-20170706>

<sup>11</sup> Cape Town dam levels still critically low, *Citizen Reporter*, 4 July 2017, <http://citizen.co.za/news/news-national/1559785/ct-dam-levels-still-critically-low/>

<sup>12</sup> Harsh summer predicted for 2018 - Cape Town, James de Villiers, *News24*, 4 July 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/harsh-summer-predicted-for-2018-cape-town-20170704>

<sup>13</sup> George water wasters may face hefty fines or jail time, Tammy Petersen, *News24*, 4 July 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/george-water-wasters-may-face-hefty-fines-or-jail-time-20170704>

#### **1.2.4 Dark City residents in Bushbuckridge in Mpumalanga, protest after sharing one tap for two decades as water security remains a major challenge in South Africa**

On 6 July, *News24* reported that the community of Dark City in Bushbuckridge in Mpumalanga, frustrated over sharing a single tap for over 20 years, has barricaded the entrance to the local municipality.<sup>14</sup>

#### **1.2.5 Water restrictors to be installed to curb excessive water use in Cape Town as drought bites**

On 6 July, *Sowetan* reported that if you cannot explain your excessive use of water, authorities will come and install a device to restrict the supply to your property in Cape Town.<sup>15</sup>

#### **1.2.6 Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille to engage taxi industry, car washes to use waterless cleaning products as the drought crisis deepens**

On 7 July, *Eyewitness News* reported that Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille says they will continue to engage with the taxi and car wash industries to use waterless cleaning products.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Dark City residents protest after sharing one tap for two decades, Yvonne Silaule, News24 Correspondent, 6 July 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/dark-city-residents-protest-after-sharing-one-tap-for-two-decades-20170706>

<sup>15</sup> Cape Town water guzzlers to be 'throttled', Petru Saal, Sowetan, 6 July 2017, <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2017/07/06/cape-town-water-guzzlers-to-be-throttled>

<sup>16</sup> De Lille to engage taxi industry, car washes to use waterless cleaning products, Shamiela Fisher, Eyewitness News, 7 July 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/07/06/de-lille-to-engage-taxi-industry-car-washes-to-use-waterless-cleaning-products>

## 2.0 Weekly Infographics: Climate-Water Nexus: Water scarcity is expected to intensify as a result of climate change

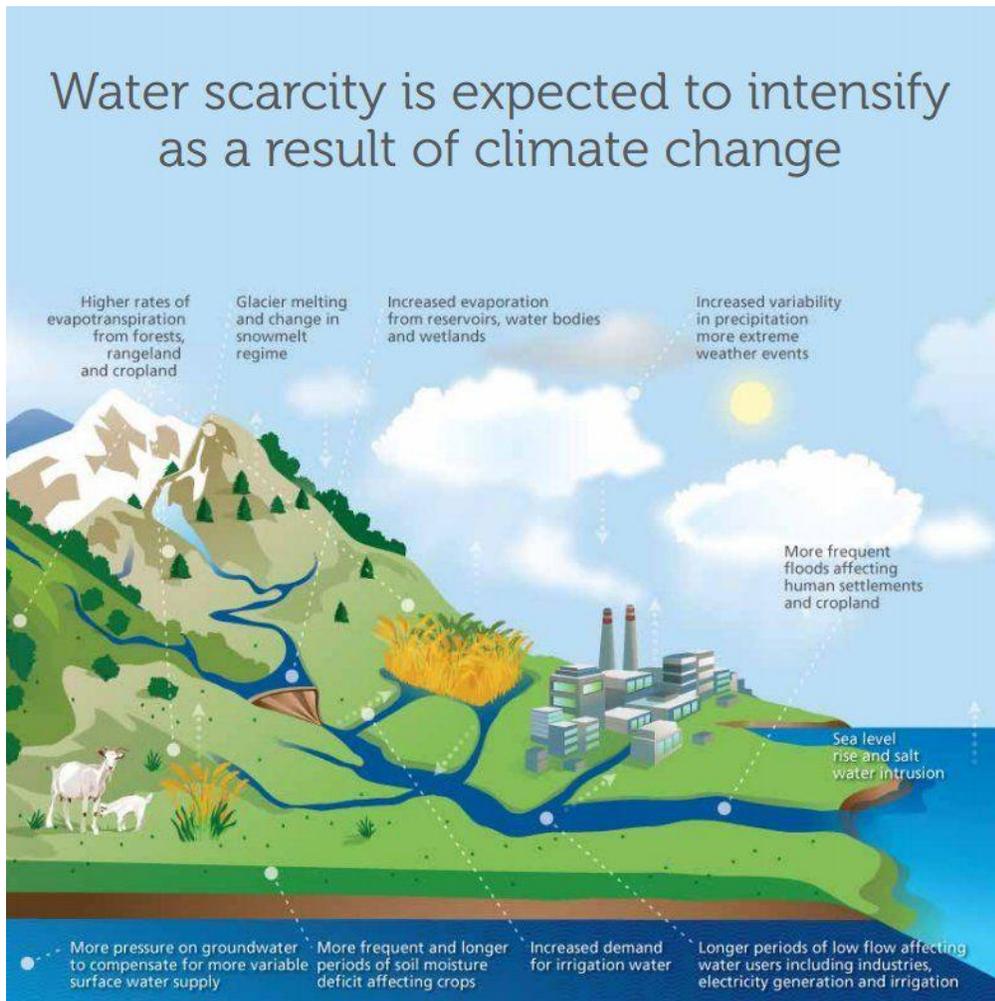


Figure 1. Climate-Water Nexus: Water scarcity is expected to intensify as a result of climate change (Source: FAO Knowledge)

### 3.0 Overall Assessment

- ❖ **South Africa's socio-political and economic outlook: The economic fundamentals remain weak amid growing social and political instability in the country**
- ❖ **There is growing confusion on the possible policy direction of the contentious land issue in South Africa. This will inevitably threaten stability in the agricultural sector and food security in the country.**
- ❖ **South Africa needs a comprehensive national water plan as the possibility of the return of El Nino weather patterns looms large in Southern Africa**