

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

**29 July – 4 August 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 Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Senzeni Zokwana serves preliminary charges on suspended Director General Mike Mlengana for alleged gross misconduct relating to misappropriation of state funds and failure to comply with the Public Finance Management Act**
- **Barclays Group records a decline in total first-half income, the first interim contraction since Maria Ramos took over as chief executive officer in 2009, as gloom grips the South African economy**
- **Pressure on the South African consumer and the lingering effects of the drought making life difficult for food producers, sparking an intense battle for market share, as all three major food producers - Tiger Brands, Rhodes Food and Pioneer Foods - feel the effects of consumer strain amid low economic growth**
- **South Africa faces an economic dilemma as two of its most dependent population groups — small children and the elderly — are growing, while the number of working people is declining, according to Statistician-General Pali Lehohla**
- **President Jacob Zuma says there is no intention to destroy commercial agriculture in South Africa but Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (BBB-EE) will be enforced in the sector.**
- **South African Reserve Bank Governor Lesetja Kganyago warns that the country's economic recession could deepen unless there was policy certainty on mining and agriculture, the two sectors that contributed to growth in the first quarter**
- **AfriForum lays charges of incitement and trespassing against Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema after he encouraged his supporters to occupy the white-owned land in South Africa**
- **University of South Africa (Unisa) and Momentum warns that South Africa could lose up to a million jobs by next year if stagnant economic growth was not addressed, with their**

**Household Financial Wellness Index showing that the balance between growth in employment and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined from 0.7 in 2011 to -0.2 in 2015 and was expected to go even below 0.3 this year and next year**

- South African government urged to intervene after another bird flu outbreak hits the country
- Town Mayor Patricia de Lille says climate change goals are important as South Africa struggles with the effects of climate change amid the deepening water crisis in Cape Town
- Cape Town residents continue to exceed daily water target as the drought crisis in the Western Province deepens
- City of Cape Town looks at short-term emergency water supply solutions including desalination and storm water capture in response to the deepening water crisis
- Cape Town starts throttling water supply as usage targets are ignored by residents as the city authorities struggle to manage the deepening drought crisis
- South Africa's Department of Water and Sanitation expresses concern over the seriousness and urgency with which the City of Cape Town is addressing the water crisis
- Western Cape Premier Helen Zille plans to slap Minister of Water and Sanitation Nomvula Mokonyane with a bill for R3.5m for water infrastructure maintenance that she believes the national department should have done amid the deepening drought crisis in the Western Cape Province
- Department of Water and Sanitation says that national water levels continue to drop amid fears that the downslide will accelerate at alarming proportions in the coming weeks

## **1.1 Food Security**

**1.1.1 Agri SA senior economist, Hamlet Hlomendlini, says the expropriation of agricultural land without compensation would likely cause serious damage to the sector and lead to economic collapse in South Africa**

On 28 July, *Business Day* reported that expropriation of agricultural land without compensation would likely cause serious damage to the sector and lead to economic collapse, says a senior AgriSA economist.<sup>1</sup>

**1.1.2 South Africa's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Senzeni Zokwana serves preliminary charges on suspended Director General Mike Mlengana for alleged gross misconduct**

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<sup>1</sup> Agri SA economist warns on farm grabs, Bekezela Phakathi, *Business Day*, 28 July 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/markets/2017-07-28-agri-sa-economist-warns-on-farm-grabs/>

## **relating to misappropriation of state funds and failure to comply with the Public Finance Management Act**

On 28 July, *News24* reported that Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Senzeni Zokwana has served preliminary charges on suspended director general Mike Mlengana.<sup>2</sup>

### **1.1.3 Barclays Group records a decline in total first-half income, the first interim contraction since Maria Ramos took over as chief executive officer in 2009, as gloom grips the South African economy**

On 29 July, *Bloomberg* reported that Barclays Africa Group just delivered further evidence that South Africa's economy won't be climbing out of the doldrums anytime soon.<sup>3</sup>

### **1.1.4 Pressure on the South African consumer and the lingering effects of the drought making life difficult for food producers, sparking an intense battle for market share, as all three major food producers - Tiger Brands, Rhodes Food and Pioneer Foods - feel the effects of consumer strain amid low economic growth**

On 30 July, *Business Day* reported that the pressure on the South African consumer and the lingering effects of the drought are making life difficult for food producers, sparking an intense battle for market share.<sup>4</sup>

### **1.1.5 South Africa faces an economic dilemma as two of its most dependent population groups — small children and the elderly — are growing, while the number of working people is declining, according to Statistician-General Pali Lehohla**

On 1 August, *Business Day* reported that SA is facing an economic dilemma as two of its most dependent population groups — small children and the elderly — are growing, while the number of working people is declining.<sup>5</sup>

### **1.1.6 President Jacob Zuma says there is no intention to destroy commercial agriculture in South Africa but Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (BBB-EE) will be enforced in the sector.**

On 1 August, *eNCA* reported that Broad-based black economic empowerment (BBB-EE) will be enforced in the agricultural sector.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Suspended DAFF DG charged with 'gross misconduct', Paul Herman, *News24*, 28 July 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/suspended-daff-dg-charged-with-gross-misconduct-20170728>

<sup>3</sup> Gloom gripping South African economy, Renee Bonorchis, *Bloomberg*, 29 July 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/business-report/economy/gloom-gripping-south-african-economy-10525961>

<sup>4</sup> Food producers chewing on lean earnings diet, Pericles Anetos, *Business Day*, 30 July 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bt/business-and-economy/2017-07-29-food-producers-chewing-on-lean-earnings-diet/>

<sup>5</sup> Estimates show SA has fewer working people, Tamar Khan, Bianca Capazorio and Khulekani Magubane, *Business Day*, 1 August 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-08-01-estimates-show-sa-has-fewer-working-people/>

**1.1.7 South African Reserve Bank Governor Lesetja Kganyago warns that the country's economic recession could deepen unless there was policy certainty on mining and agriculture, the two sectors that contributed to growth in the first quarter**

On 1 August, *African News Agency* reported that South African Reserve Bank governor Lesetja Kganyago on Tuesday warned that the country's economic recession could deepen unless there was policy certainty on mining and agriculture, the two sectors that contributed to growth in the first quarter.<sup>7</sup>

**1.1.8 AfriForum lays charges of incitement and trespassing against Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema after he encouraged his supporters to occupy the white-owned land in South Africa**

On 1 August, *Citizen* reported that the AfriForum has laid charges of incitement and trespassing against Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema at the Lyttelton Police Station in Pretoria on Tuesday.<sup>8</sup>

**1.1.9 University of South Africa (Unisa) and Momentum warns that South Africa could lose up to a million jobs by next year if stagnant economic growth was not addressed, with their Household Financial Wellness Index showing that the balance between growth in employment and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined from 0.7 in 2011 to -0.2 in 2015 and was expected to go even below 0.3 this year and next year**

On 2 August, *IOL Business* reported that the University of South Africa (Unisa) and Momentum warned that South Africa could lose up to a million jobs by next year if stagnant economic growth was not addressed.<sup>9</sup>

**1.1.10 South African government urged to intervene after another bird flu outbreak hits the country**

On 3 August, *Eyewitness News* reported that a local poultry farm that's confirmed a second outbreak of bird flu has called on government to take swift action as it did with the maize industry when it was hit by the fall army worm.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> There is no intention to destroy commercial agriculture: Zuma, eNCA, 1 August 2017, <http://www.enca.com/money/there-is-no-intention-to-destroy-commercial-agriculture-zuma>

<sup>7</sup> Reserve Bank governor warns of deeper recession, Emsie Ferreira, African News Agency, 1 August 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/business-report/economy/reserve-bank-governor-warns-of-deeper-recession-10580665>

<sup>8</sup> AfriForum lays charges against Malema over land remarks, Citizen Reporter, 1 August 2017, <http://citizen.co.za/news/south-africa/1595076/afriforum-lays-charges-against-malema-over-land-comments/>

<sup>9</sup> 1m jobs at risk over stagnant SA growth, Kabelo Khumalo, IOL Business Report, 2 August 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/business-report/1m-jobs-at-risk-over-stagnant-sa-growth-10590626>

<sup>10</sup> Calls for Govt to intervene after another bird flu outbreak, Masa Kekana, Eyewitness News, 3 August 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/08/03/calls-for-government-to-intervene-after-another-bird-flu-outbreak>

## **1.2 Water Security**

### **1.2.1 Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille says climate change goals are important as South Africa struggles with the effects of climate change amid the deepening water crisis in Cape Town**

On 28 July, *SABC News* reported that Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille says climate change goals are important to the City of Cape Town.<sup>11</sup>

### **1.2.2 Cape Town residents continue to exceed daily water target as the drought crisis in the Western Province deepens**

On 30 July, *Citizen* reported that July and August are usually Cape Town's wettest months but for the city that reportedly continues to struggle to keep its residents' water usage down, the SA Weather Service has said there is only about a 30 percent chance of rainfall this week.<sup>12</sup>

### **1.2.3 City of Cape Town looks at short-term emergency water supply solutions including desalination and storm water capture in response to the deepening water crisis**

On 1 August, *Cape Argus* reported that with just a month left before the end of winter the City of Cape Town is looking at short-term emergency water supply solutions including desalination, storm water capture, or aquifer extraction in response to the water crisis.<sup>13</sup>

### **1.2.4 Cape Town starts throttling water supply as usage targets are ignored by residents as the city authorities struggle to manage the deepening drought crisis**

On 1 August, *Business Day* reported that Cape Town authorities will start knocking on doors this week to install devices that restrict the supply of water guzzlers.<sup>14</sup>

### **1.2.5 South Africa's Department of Water and Sanitation expresses concern over the seriousness and urgency with which the City of Cape Town is addressing the water crisis**

On 1 August, *Cape Argus* reported that the national Department of Water and Sanitation has expressed concern over the seriousness and urgency with which the City of Cape Town is addressing the water crisis.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Climate change goals are important: De Lille, SABC News, 28 July 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/ccd80200420863c5a308b7de5f58a82e/Climate-change-goals-are-important-say-De-Lille-20172807>

<sup>12</sup> Cape Town residents exceed daily water target – report, Citizen Reporter, 30 July 2017, <http://citizen.co.za/news/south-africa/1592177/ct-residents-exceed-daily-water-target-report/>

<sup>13</sup> #WaterCrisis: City, province ramp up efforts, Zodidi Dano, Cape Argus, 1 August 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/capearthus/watercrisis-city-province-ramp-up-efforts-10577620>

<sup>14</sup> Cape Town starts throttling water supply as usage targets are ignored, Staff Writer, Business Day, 1 August 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2017-08-01-cape-town-starts-throttling-water-supply-as-usage-targets-are-ignored/>

**1.2.6 Western Cape Premier Helen Zille plans to slap Minister of Water and Sanitation Nomvula Mokonyane with a bill for R3.5m for water infrastructure maintenance that she believes the national department should have done amid the deepening drought crisis in the Western Cape Province**

On 1 August, *News24* reported that Western Cape Premier Helen Zille is planning to slap Minister of Water and Sanitation Nomvula Mokonyane with a bill for R3.5m for water infrastructure maintenance that she believes the national department should have done.<sup>16</sup>

**1.2.7 Department of Water and Sanitation says that national water levels continue to drop amid fears that the downslide will accelerate at alarming proportions in the coming weeks**

On 1 August, *South African Government News* reported that the steady gradual decline of the national dam levels continues amid fears that the downslide will accelerate at alarming proportions in the coming weeks, Department of Water and Sanitation said on Tuesday.<sup>17</sup>

**2.0 Weekly Infographics: Biodiversity: 80% of human diet consists of plants**



Figure 1. Biodiversity: 80% of human diet consists of plants (Source: FAO)

<sup>15</sup> #WaterCrisis: National government slams City of Cape Town, Rusana Philander, *Cape Argus*, 1 August 2017, <http://www.iol.co.za/capearthus/watercrisis-national-government-slams-city-of-cape-town-10577130>

<sup>16</sup> Zille to bill Mokonyane millions for water systems maintenance, repairs, Jenni Evans, *News24*, 1 August 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/zille-to-bill-mokonyane-millions-for-water-systems-maintenance-repairs-20170801>

<sup>17</sup> National water levels continue to drop, *South African Government News*, 1 August 2017, <http://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/national-water-levels-continue-drop>

### **3.0 Overall Assessment**

- ❖ **South African government is urged to craft a comprehensive climate change-food-water nexus policy to address the increasing threat of climate change to food and water security in the country.**
- ❖ **A more decisive policy position on land is increasingly becoming necessary in South Africa as the land crisis deepens**