

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

**12 July – 18 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 poor economic growth is pushing the country towards social unrest**
- **South Africa's bird flu crisis deepens amid reports of a possible outbreak in the Western Cape Province**
- **South Africa's agricultural sector losses 84,000 jobs amid growing political and economic uncertainty in the country**
- **Stock theft of the rise in SA, with an estimated 25,000 livestock stolen in 2016 as South African Police Service statistics indicate that Free State and Eastern Cape provinces are the most affected**
- **Price for chicken meat goes up by 5% as the bird flu crisis deepens in South Africa**
- **1/3 of food produced in South Africa goes to waste, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) amid reports of growing 'hidden hunger' in the country**
- **OECD survey predicts a timid 0.6% growth for South Africa as low growth and high unemployment weigh down social progress**
- **South Africa's Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti says the land audit process is stalling amid reports that the government has spent R33bn since 1994 buying land for the agrarian reform but failing to meet its target of handing 30% of agricultural land to black recipients by 2014**
- **South Africa's Automobile Association predicts a big fuel petrol price hike in the region of 63 cents a litre in September amid reports that low income households are struggling to put food on the table**
- **Political tensions in the ruling African National Congress (ANC) are constraining economic growth in South Africa according to the credit ratings agency Moody's**

- **University of Cape Town (UCT) creates an app to help water users track water consumption as the water crisis in Cape Town deepens**
- **North West government announces that it has made progress in water projects in the province as South Africa struggles to mitigate the effects of climate change**
- **Eastern Cape villagers drink water with animals amid the growing possibility of the return of El Nino weather patterns across South Africa**
- **City of Cape Town urges residents to continue conserving water as consumption remains alarmingly high amid a deepening drought crisis**
- **Western Cape government to finally enforce water restrictions in all municipalities in the province amid a persistent drought and a deepening water crisis**
- **City of Cape Town says it has issued 369 fines in the past nine months to residents flouting water restrictions but water consumption remains stubbornly high, suggesting that the fines strategy is failing as a deterrent to curb the high water consumption in the city**
- **City of Cape Town begins to install water management devices in high consumption households as the water crisis deepens**

## **1.1 Food Security**

### **1.1.1 South Africa's poor economic growth is pushing the country towards social unrest**

On 11 August, *Fin24* reported that without strong economic growth, indicators are showing SA is moving towards social unrest, cautioned Fred Robertson, executive chair of Brimstone Investment.<sup>1</sup>

### **1.1.2 South Africa's bird flu crisis deepens amid reports of a possible outbreak in the Western Cape Province**

On 12 August, *Times Live* reported that a possible outbreak of bird flu in the Western Cape is being investigated.<sup>2</sup>

### **1.1.3 South Africa's agricultural sector losses 84,000 jobs amid growing political and economic uncertainty in the country**

On 13 August, *eNCA* reported that the latest data shows that 84,000 jobs in the sector have already been lost this year.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> SA moving to social unrest without strong economic growth, Carin Smith, *Fin24*, 11 August 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/sa-moving-to-social-unrest-without-strong-economic-growth-20170811>

<sup>2</sup> Possible outbreak of bird flu in the Western Cape, *Times Live*, 12 August 2017, <https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2017-08-12-possible-outbreak-of-bird-flu-in-the-western-cape/>

#### **1.1.4 Stock theft of the rise in SA, with an estimated 25,000 livestock stolen in 2016 as South African Police Service statistics indicate that Free State and Eastern Cape provinces are the most affected**

On 13 August, *The New Age* reported that an estimated 25000 livestock, mostly cows, were stolen from owners in 2016. South African.<sup>4</sup>

#### **1.1.5 Price for chicken meat goes up by 5% as the bird flu crisis deepens in South Africa**

On 14 August, *IOL Business* reported that Agricultural Business Chamber head, agricultural economist Wandile Sihlobo, said on Friday that the price of chicken has climbed to R44.36 per kilogram at the end of June.<sup>5</sup>

#### **1.1.6 1/3 of food produced in South Africa goes to waste, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) amid reports of growing 'hidden hunger' in the country**

On 14 August, *SABC News* reported that the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is reporting that one third of the food produced in South Africa goes to waste.<sup>6</sup>

#### **1.1.7 OECD survey predicts a timid 0.6% growth for South Africa as low growth and high unemployment weigh down social progress**

On 15 August, *Business Day* reported that low growth and high unemployment are weighing down social progress and 'bold structural reforms' are needed.<sup>7</sup>

#### **1.1.8 South Africa's Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti says the land audit process is stalling amid reports that the government has spent R33bn since 1994 buying land for the agrarian reform but failing to meet its target of handing 30% of agricultural land to black recipients by 2014**

On 15 August, *Business Day* reported that the government has spent R33bn since 1994 buying land for land reform, Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti says.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Job losses on the up in SA's agricultural sector, eNCA, 13 August 2017, <http://www.enca.com/money/job-losses-on-the-up-in-sas-agricultural-sector>

<sup>4</sup> Stock theft of the rise in SA, Kutullo Madisha and Nondumiso Zwane, *The New Age*, 13 August 2017, <http://www.thenewage.co.za/stock-theft-of-the-rise-in-sa/>

<sup>5</sup> Price for chicken meat goes up by 5%, Sandile Mchunu, *IOL Business*, 14 August 2017, <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/companies/price-for-chicken-meat-goes-up-by-5-10782075>

<sup>6</sup> 1/3 of food produced in South Africa goes to waste – WWF, Manelisi Dubase, *SABC News*, 14 August 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/d7ccc080423dec78a20fef5d67cc72ae/13-of-food-produced-in-South-Africa-goes-to-waste---WWF-20171408>

<sup>7</sup> OECD survey predicts 'timid' 0.6% growth for SA, Linda Ensor, *Business Day*, 15 August 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/economy/2017-08-15-oecd-survey-predicts-timid-06-growth-for-sa/>

<sup>8</sup> Why SA's land audit is taking so long, Bekezela Phakathi, *Business Day*, 15 August 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2017-08-15-why-sas-land-audit-is-taking-so-long/>

### **1.1.9 South Africa's Automobile Association predicts a big fuel petrol price hike in the region of 63 cents a litre in September amid reports that low income households are struggling to put food on the table**

On 16 August, *IOL Motoring* reported that South African motorists can expect more pain at the fuel pumps from the beginning of September, with mid-month fuel price data pointing towards a rather hefty price increase.<sup>9</sup>

### **1.1.10 Political tensions in the ruling African National Congress (ANC) are constraining economic growth in South Africa according to the credit ratings agency Moody's**

On 16 August, *Reuters* reported that Political tensions in the ruling African National Congress will weigh on South Africa's growth, ratings agency Moody's said on Wednesday.<sup>10</sup>

## **1.2 Water**

### **1.2.1 University of Cape Town (UCT) creates an app to help water users track water consumption as the water crisis in Cape Town deepens**

On 14 August, *Eyewitness News* reported that the University of Cape Town (UCT)'s information for community services team, has created an app that will help users track their water consumption.<sup>11</sup>

### **1.2.2 North West government announces that it has made progress in water projects in the province as South Africa struggles to mitigate the effects of climate change**

On 14 August, *South African Government News* reported that the North West government has noted progress made in that province's much-needed water and sanitation projects.<sup>12</sup>

### **1.2.3 Eastern Cape villagers drink water with animals amid the growing possibility of the return of El Nino weather patterns across South Africa**

On 15 August, *Ground Up* reported that residents of KwaDukathole village in the Eastern Cape have been sharing their drinking water with livestock since 2014, in spite of promises by the Chris Hani municipality to fix the village taps.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Big fuel price hike likely for September, IOL Motoring Staff, 16 August 2017, <https://www.iol.co.za/motoring/industry-news/big-fuel-price-hike-likely-for-september-10802936>

<sup>10</sup> Political tensions constraining growth in South Africa: Moody's, TJ Strydom, Reuters, 16 August 2017, <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/business/2017-08-16-political-tensions-constraining-growth-in-south-africa-moodys/>

<sup>11</sup> UCT creates app to help water users track water consumption, Shamiela Fisher, Eyewitness News, 14 August 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/08/14/uct-creates-app-to-help-water-users-track-water-consumption>

<sup>12</sup> North West makes progress in water and sanitation projects, South African Government News, 14 August 2017, <http://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/north-west-makes-progress-water-and-sanitation-projects>

#### **1.2.4 City of Cape Town urges residents to continue conserving water as consumption remains alarmingly high amid a deepening drought crisis**

On 15 August, *SABC News* reported that the City of Cape Town says water consumption in the city is still alarmingly high.<sup>14</sup>

#### **1.2.5 Western Cape government to finally enforce water restrictions in all municipalities in the province amid a persistent drought and a deepening water crisis**

On 15 August, *Business Day* reported that the Western Cape government will finally enforce water restrictions in all municipalities in the province amid a persistent drought.<sup>15</sup>

#### **1.2.6 City of Cape Town says it has issued 369 fines in the past nine months to residents flouting water restrictions but water consumption remains stubbornly high, suggesting that the fines strategy is failing as a deterrent to curb the high water consumption in the city**

On 15 August, *Times Live* reported that the City of Cape Town says it has issued 369 fines in the past nine months to residents flouting water restrictions.<sup>16</sup>

#### **1.2.7 City of Cape Town begins to install water management devices in high consumption households as the water crisis deepens**

On 16 August, *Eyewitness News* reported that the City of Cape Town has started installing water management devices to restrict high consumption households.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Eastern Cape villagers drink water with animals, Mbulelo Sisulu, Ground Up, 15 August 2017, <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/eastern-cape-villagers-drink-water-with-animals-20170815>

<sup>14</sup> Cape residents urged to continue saving water, SABC News, 15 August 2017, <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/7b0a5980423f813bbbf3ffc98f29fcc3/Cape-residents-urged-to-continue-saving-water-20171508>

<sup>15</sup> Western Cape gets tough on water restrictions, Aphiwe Deklerk, Business Day, 15 August 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2017-08-15-western-cape-gets-tough-on-water-restrictions/>

<sup>16</sup> 369 Capetonians fined for ignoring water curbs, Aphiwe Deklerk, Times Live, 15 August 2017, <https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2017-08-15-369-capetonians-fined-for-ignoring-water-curbs/>

<sup>17</sup> Water management devices installed in CT high consumption households, Lindsay Dentlinger, Eyewitness News, 16 August 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/08/16/water-management-devices-installed-in-ct-high-consumption-households>

## 2.0 Weekly Infographics: 1/3 of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally- enough to feed 2 billion people



Figure 1. 1/3 of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally- enough to feed 2 billion people (Source: World Food Programme)

### 3. 0 Overall Assessment

- ❖ South Africa's low growth, high unemployment and increasing social and political uncertainty is becoming a major threat to food and water security in the country.