

Food & Water Security in South Africa WEEKLY MONITOR

26 August – 1 September 2017

Prepared by Augustus Consulting

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1.0 Key Weekly Trends, Themes and Issues

- **More than 2 million people go to bed hungry in Limpopo amid reports that 51% of South Africans are living in poverty, the majority of whom are African and children**
- **30 000 chickens killed by avian flu in Western Cape as the bird flu crisis deepens in South Africa**
- **African National Congress (ANC) presidential hopeful Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma warns that retaining the economic status quo which has left over half of South Africans living in poverty will threaten the country's peace and stability**
- **South Africa's Minister of Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs Des van Rooyen says that the agricultural sector has been the hardest hit by the drought situation which is still persisting despite rainfall in some parts of the country**
- **South Africa's Automobile Association says that motorists will be hit with a substantial fuel price increase in September, with month-end data pointing towards a price increase of around 61 cents a litre for petrol and 46 cents a litre for diesel**
- **Human trafficking- Agricultural labour nexus becoming a major problem in South Africa especially in the Free State Province farming areas**
- **Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is considering the possibility of vaccination in an attempt to stop the spread of avian flu in South Africa**
- **South Africa's Reserve Bank says that private sector credit in the country saw its weakest growth in five months in July after it rose 5.7% year-on-year last month, slowing from a 6.16% rise in a month earlier as the sluggish business confidence slowdown corporate credit intake**
- **City of Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille warns residents if they continue to use water at the current rate, the city will run out by December amid reports that the city has a water consumption target of 500 million litres a day, which is being exceeded by 129 million litres**

- **Opposition parties in Western Cape Province, ANC and ACDP criticize the City of Cape Town for having taken too long to put its emergency water plans into action**
- **South African Government allocates over R74m for emergency disaster relief in Western Cape Province to mitigate the effects of the drought amid reports that R40m of this amount will go towards the acquisition of livestock feed while the City of Cape Town will receive the bulk of the funding destined for municipalities in the amount of R20 million**
- **Nongoma mayor Albert Mncwango welcomes a forensic investigation into how the KwaZulu-Natal government spent more than R200-million earmarked for drought-relief in the province as the drought relief fund scandal deepens in South Africa**
- **Department of Water and Sanitation says some of South Africa's dams are still running on empty amid reports that in KwaZulu-Natal, water restrictions remain in place in Pietermaritzburg, Durban, the northern parts of the province and the South Coast to save the little water that is available**

1.1 Food Security

1.1.1 More than 2 million people go to bed hungry in Limpopo amid reports that 51% of South Africans are living in poverty, the majority of whom are African and children

On 25 August, *The Citizen* reported that more than 2 million people in Limpopo live below the breadline, even though the province is surrounded by enterprises from three pillars of the SA economy: mining, tourism and agriculture.¹

1.1.2 30 000 chickens killed by avian flu in Western Cape as the bird flu crisis deepens in South Africa

On 28 August, *Cape Argus* reported that avian flu has spread to a commercial layer poultry farm in the province, killing at least 30 000 chickens.²

1.1.3 African National Congress (ANC) presidential hopeful Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma warns that retaining the economic status quo which has left over half of South Africans living in poverty will threaten the country's peace and stability

On 29 August, *News24* reported that retaining the economic status quo which has left over half of South Africans living in poverty will threaten the country's peace and stability, African National Congress presidential hopeful Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma warned on Tuesday.³

¹ More than 2m people go to bed hungry in Limpopo, Alex Matlala, *The Citizen*, 25 August 2017, <http://citizen.co.za/news/south-africa/1626205/more-than-2m-people-go-to-bed-hungry-in-limpopo/>

² 30 000 chickens killed by avian flu in Western Cape, Lisa Isaacs, *Cape Argus*, 28 August 2017, <https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/western-cape/30-000-chickens-killed-by-avian-flu-in-western-cape-10965645>

1.1.4 South Africa's Minister of Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs Des van Rooyen says that the agricultural sector has been the hardest hit by the drought situation which is still persisting despite rainfall in some parts of the country

On 29 August, *TNA* reported that Minister of Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs Des van Rooyen says the department of water and Sanitation, as well as Agriculture, were mostly hit by drought.⁴

1.1.5 South Africa's Automobile Association says that motorists will be hit with a substantial fuel price increase in September, with month-end data pointing towards a price increase of around 61 cents a litre for petrol and 46 cents a litre for diesel

On 30 August, *IOL Monitoring* reported that South African motorists will be hit with a substantial fuel price increase in September, according to the Automobile Association, with month-end data pointing towards a price increase of around 61 cents a litre for petrol and 46 cents a litre for diesel.⁵

1.1.6 Human trafficking- Agricultural labour nexus becoming a major problem in South Africa especially in the Free State Province farming areas

On 30 August, *The New Age* reported that children as young as 13 years old were among the people who were rescued from a Wesselsbron farm in the west of the Free State yesterday.⁶

1.1.7 Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is considering the possibility of vaccination in an attempt to stop the spread of avian flu in South Africa

On 30 August, *Fin24* reported that the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is considering the possibility of vaccination in an attempt to stop the spread of avian flu.⁷

1.1.8 South Africa's Reserve Bank says that private sector credit in the country saw its weakest growth in five months in July after it rose 5.7% year-on-year last month, slowing from a 6.16% rise in a month earlier as the sluggish business confidence slowdown corporate credit intake

On 31 August, *IOL Business* reported that the SA Reserve Bank on Wednesday said that private sector credit in the country saw its weakest growth in five months in July after it rose 5.7% year-on-year last

³ Economic status quo threatens SA's stability - Dlamini-Zuma, Mahlatse Gallens, News 24, 29 August 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/economic-status-quo-threatens-sas-stability-dlamini-zuma-20170829>

⁴ Agricultural sector the hardest hit by drought, TNA Reporter, 29 August 2017, <http://www.thenewage.co.za/agricultural-sector-the-hardest-hit-by-drought/>

⁵ Big fuel price hike on the cards for September, IOL Motoring Staff, 30 August 2017, <https://www.iol.co.za/motoring/industry-news/big-fuel-price-hike-on-the-cards-for-september-10998736>

⁶ Farm 'slaves' rescued, The New Age, 30 August 2017, <http://www.thenewage.co.za/farm-slaves-rescued/>

⁷ Govt considering vaccination to stop spread of bird flu, Liesl Peyper, Fin24, 30 August 2017, <http://www.fin24.com/Companies/Agribusiness/govt-considering-vaccination-to-stop-spread-of-bird-flu-20170830>

month, slowing from a 6.16% rise in a month earlier as the sluggish business confidence slowdown corporate credit intake.⁸

1.2 Water Security

1.2.1 City of Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille warns residents if they continue to use water at the current rate, the city will run out by December amid reports that the city has a water consumption target of 500 million litres a day, which is being exceeded by 129 million litres

On 24 August, *Eyewitness News* reported that Mayor Patricia de Lille has warned residents if they continue to use water at the current rate, the city will run out by December.⁹

1.2.2 Opposition parties in Western Cape Province, ANC and ACDP criticize the City of Cape Town for having taken too long to put its emergency water plans into action

On 24 August, *Eyewitness News* reported that the ANC and ACDP say the city has taken too long to put its emergency water plans into action which have been in the offing for years.¹⁰

1.2.3 South African Government allocates over R74m for emergency disaster relief in Western Cape Province to mitigate the effects of the drought amid reports that R40m of this amount will go towards the acquisition of livestock feed while the City of Cape Town will receive the bulk of the funding destined for municipalities in the amount of R20 million

On 29 August, *Eyewitness News* reported that government has allocated R74.8 million for emergency disaster relief in the Western Cape to mitigate the effects of the drought.¹¹

1.2.4 Nongoma mayor Albert Mncwango welcomes a forensic investigation into how the KwaZulu-Natal government spent more than R200-million earmarked for drought-relief in the province as the drought relief fund scandal deepens in South Africa

On 29 August, *Times Live* reported that Nongoma mayor Albert Mncwango has welcomed a forensic investigation into how the KwaZulu-Natal government spent more than R200-million earmarked for drought-relief in the province.¹²

⁸ SA Reserve Bank says private sector credit weakens, Kabelo Khumalo, IOL Business Report, 31 August 2017, <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/markets/sa-reserve-bank-says-private-sector-credit-weakens-11016044>

⁹ De Lille: Current water use will see CT run out by December, Lindsay Dentlinger, Eyewitness News, 24 August 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/08/24/de-lille-current-water-use-will-see-ct-run-out-by-december>

¹⁰ Opposition parties slam timing of CT's water augmentation plans, Lindsay Dentlinger, Eyewitness News, 24 August 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/08/24/opposition-parties-slam-timing-of-ct-s-water-augmentation-plans>

¹¹ Govt allocates over R74m for emergency disaster relief in WC, Lindsay Dentlinger, Eyewitness News, 29 August 2017, <http://ewn.co.za/2017/08/29/govt-allocates-over-r74m-for-emergency-disaster-relief-in-wc>

¹² R200m for drought relief – KZN mayor wants to know where it went, Bongani Mthethwa, Times Live, 29 August 2017, <https://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2017-08-29-r200m-for-drought-relief--kzn-mayor-wants-to-know-where-it-went/>

1.2.5 Department of Water and Sanitation says some of South Africa’s dams are still running on empty amid reports that in KwaZulu-Natal, water restrictions remain in place in Pietermaritzburg, Durban, the northern parts of the province and the South Coast to save the little water that is available

On 31 August, *Business Day* reported that over the past year SA has endured one of its worst droughts.¹³

2.0 Weekly Infographics: Water Security- Global physical and economic scarcity in 2015

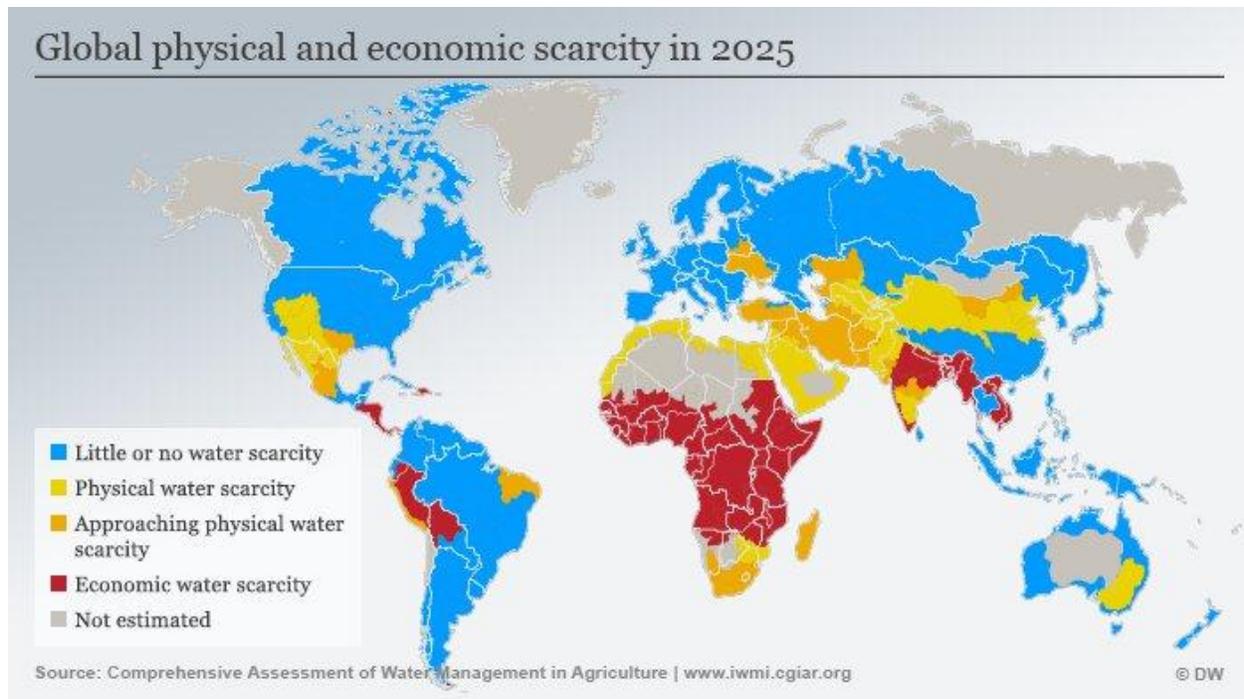


Figure 1. Water Security- Global physical and economic scarcity in 2015 (Source: CGIAR and DW)

3.0 Overall Assessment

- ❖ **The persistent low dam levels in South Africa poses a major threat to medium and long-term food security in South Africa**
- ❖ **The South African government needs to act more decisively in order to effectively address the deepening bird flu crisis in the country**

¹³ Some of SA’s dams are still running on empty, Penwell Dlamini, Business Day, 31 August 2017, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/science-and-environment/2017-08-31-some-of-sas-dams-are-still-running-on-empty/>