



- Economic Development Minister Ebrahim Patel has urged that issues of governance and integrity in state-owned companies and public institutions be addressed swiftly to boost confidence in communities and among investors and stave off a further downgrade by credit ratings agencies.
- Speaking at the Democracy Defenders Dialogue at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, former finance Minister Pravin Gordhan emphasised the need for an active citizens' movement against corruption and state capture, while former public protector Thuli Madonsela said whistle-blowers should be supported and corrupt government leaders held accountable.
- Parliament's standing committee on finance expressed its anger at the lack of action by the investigating and prosecuting authorities against those illegally taking money abroad. Of about 5 000 cases reported to the police, only a few have been pursued. A committee will now deal with the matter.
- The National Prosecuting Authority 12 years ago declined to prosecute a R120m exchange-control, tax and customs fraud case against Gupta-owned Sahara Computers and an associated company. The NPA now says the file has been destroyed and it cannot explain how it happened.
- The Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse wants the National Prosecuting Authority to instruct the Asset Forfeiture Unit to prevent the Guptas moving assets offshore.
- Leaked Gupta e-mails show Public Enterprises Minister Lynne Brown's personal assistant, her romantic partner and her director-general have had direct links with the Guptas and were involved in making key decisions, including board appointments to state-owned enterprises. Brown asked her PA to step down.
- Speaking during a BBC interview, Athul Gupta described leaked emails suggesting his family used links to President Jacob Zuma to win contracts and influence decisions as fake.
- Research by The University of Johannesburg's Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development Policy shows uncertainty and distrust between the public and private sectors was a big factor in South African companies accumulating reserves and not investing in the economy. Cash reserves in the JSE's largest 50 companies had increased from R242bn to R1.4tn between 2005 and 2016.
- Eskom and its shareholder, the SA government, are likely to face increasing pressure from its lenders to put a credible board and management team in place. A number of SA's big banks have written to the power utility to ask how it intends handling the qualified audit report on Eskom's recent financial results.
- South African Airways is effectively bankrupt and it may not be able to pay salaries. According to a cash-flow analysis provided by SAA to MPs this week, it had a net cash outflow of R568m in July.
- Minister in the Presidency Jeff Radebe said he is available for election at the ANC's elective conference in December. He says he has put the sex scandal of earlier this year behind him.
- President Jacob Zuma's son Edward refused to apologise and retract a vitriolic open letter saying Pravin Gordhan and Derek Hanekom were guilty of protecting white monopoly capital. The ANC and SA Human Rights Commission said the letter promotes racial hatred and they will take action against him.
- The Department of Public Service and Administration was asked to explain allegations that Minister Faith Muthambi spent R300 000 of taxpayers' money to fly 30 people to watch her talk in parliament.
- ANC MP Makhosi Khoza says she will not speak at public events until her safety can be guaranteed, after being disrupted by bussed-in supporters of President Zuma at a Young Communists League event.
- The ANC in Gauteng has asked ANC MP Mondli Gungubele to stop making public statements about supporting the motion of no confidence vote in President Jacob Zuma.
- The ANC national executive committee will not disband the Western Cape provincial executive committee and it reversed the provincial executive committee's decision to dissolve the Dullah Omar region.
- Many of SA's teachers are ill-prepared for teaching, unaccountable and do not receive enough support to equip them as competent educators, a report by the Centre for Development and Enterprise showed.
- National Health and Allied Workers' Union members have suspended a strike at the National Health Laboratory Service. However, the Public Servants Association said its members would remain on strike.
- Statistics SA said in a report that South Africa has 56.5m people, up 1.61% from 2016. The growth rate of elderly people is the highest with an increase of 3%. Nearly a third of the population is under 15.
- The Independent Communications Authority of SA assured Parliament that it will fight for the high cost of data to come down, specifically targeting high out-of-bundle data costs and expiring data bundles.
- A KwaZulu-Natal boy (5) became the youngest person in Africa to receive a mechanical heart implantation. The operation was done at the Maboneng Heart Institute at the Netcare Sunninghill Hospital. **End**