



- Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa strongly denounced state capture during his address at the South African Communist Party congress this week, saying that the country was losing its sovereignty with a growing list of foreign organisations influencing its social policy. Ramaphosa said there was an urgent need for an independent judicial commission of inquiry and that no ANC member involved in corruption will be shielded.
- Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane filed court papers with the High Court in Pretoria this week, saying President Zuma has no grounds on which to attack the remedial action former public protector Thuli Madonsela set out in her *State of Capture* report. Mkhwebane accused President Zuma of undermining the Chapter Nine institution by failing to comply with her predecessor's recommendations.
- Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba tabled a new growth plan for the economy promising reform of state-owned enterprises, fiscal prudence and a new dialogue on the Mining Charter. It contains much of President Zuma's nine-point plan, introduced in the state of the nation address in 2015, with similar focuses on energy, reforming SOEs, broadband roll-out and encouraging private sector investment.
- The SACP did not invite President Zuma to address its annual congress after it had earlier asked that Zuma step down as president. It is tradition for the ANC to deliver a message of support at the congress.
- City Press reported that it had obtained the ANC's integrity commission report, which showed that its members had in fact asked Zuma to resign but that he had declined because he said this would allow Western governments to capture the party and betray the revolution.
- Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane said she will not oppose the Reserve Bank's application to the High Court for the review of her remedial action that directed Parliament to effect a constitutional amendment to the Reserve Bank's powers. The central bank intends continuing its legal action against Mkhwebane.
- The Office of the Chief Justice says it is deeply concerned by accusations by Speaker of Parliament Baleka Mbete that certain judges are biased against the ANC. Mbete told the Sunday Times that some judges were not impartial in terms of the ANC, following high-profile losses in the High Court and Constitutional Court.
- Eskom said external auditors had raised two reportable irregularities with their regulatory body. The utility postponed the presentation of its annual results to mitigate the risks, which relate to the reinstatement of former CEO Brian Molefe and former acting CEO Matshela Koko who allegedly violated procurement rules.
- The National Prosecuting Authority will decide at the end of July whether to prosecute anyone over allegedly corrupt contracts awarded by the Passenger Rail Agency of SA. The NPA has received more than 60 files from the Hawks relating to probes into the R3.5bn contract to supply new locomotives and other contracts.
- Global software company SAP is investigating allegations that its South African staff arranged kickbacks for a Gupta-linked company for securing tenders with state-owned companies. The investigation follows the company's executive board ordering that SAP's SA management team be placed on administrative leave.
- Employer organisations in the metal and engineering sector are negotiating directly with workers after failing to reach agreement with unions on wages. Unions rejected a 5.4% wage offer.
- From 17 July, SA travellers to India will have to go to an application centre to be fingerprinted and photographed for a visa, and will have to first book an appointment online.
- The number of single-medium Afrikaans schools are declining as more pupils choose English as the primary language of instruction, says Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga. The schools, most of which are in the Western Cape and the Northern Cape, have decreased from 1 814 in 2002 to 1 234 in 2016.
- Policy uncertainty is increasing in SA. The policy uncertainty index released by the North-West University School of Business and Governance showed an average score of 53.1, up from 51.0 in Q1 of 2017.
- The latest First National Bank (FNB)/Bureau for Economic Research consumer confidence index shows sentiment among consumers remained depressed in the first half of the year.
- Economists believe the struggling manufacturing sector will not derail overall GDP growth for 2017's second quarter too severely. Manufacturing production fell 0.8% in May compared with May 2016. Seasonally adjusted manufacturing production decreased a slight 0.3% in May 2017 compared with April 2017.
- The SA Agricultural Machinery Association says in June, tractor sales increased by 24.4% year on year to 479 units after a 16.8% jump in May to 493 units. In 2016, the drought caused sales to drop to 5 855 units.
- A highly contagious strain of bird flu has been confirmed at two more locations in SA, bringing the total of affected farms to four. These two commercial layer chickens are in Gauteng and Mpumalanga.
- Dam levels remain critically low in the Western Cape, with dam levels currently standing at 25.4% with the last 10% not safe for consumption. The City of Cape Town aims to bring down collective water use to 500m litres a day and 87ℓ/person a day. Currently the collective water use stands at 619m litres a day. **End**