

April 2019

H+K

Africa Digest

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Developments

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South Africa heads to the polls in May

South Africans are heading to the polls on 8 May in what will be the country's sixth democratic elections and 25 years since the first democratic elections.

Many regard these elections as the most important this young democracy has held since that groundbreaking day on 27 April 1994, where, for the very time, every single South African of voting age was allowed to cast their ballot. The African National Congress (ANC) won that election, and has won all of them since, and it seems, according to polls, that the governing party will stay in power for another five years.

The main election poster of the ruling ANC party on street poles states "Let's grow South Africa together". Yet economic growth is stagnant and the country's unemployment rate is the worst in the world.

South Africa's lost decade

The elections come at a time where economic growth is low, unemployment is high, and South Africans are coming to realise the extent of corruption that has taken root in government and state-owned enterprises. President Cyril Ramaphosa has referred to the period from 2008 to 2018 as a "lost decade". At WEF at the end of January, Ramaphosa reduced this period to nine years, which coincided with the time Jacob Zuma, his predecessor, was in office.

Recently the International Monetary Fund lowered South Africa's projected economic growth rate for 2019 from 1,4% to 1,2%. It also lowered its projected growth for 2020 from 1,7% to 1,5%. The IMF's projections are slightly lower than the SA Reserve Bank's projections, and will make the country among the worst performers in sub-Saharan Africa. The SARB's expectation is for the economy to grow by 1,3% in 2019, and 1,8% in 2020.

In terms of the National Development Plan, the economy needs to grow by at least 5% to reduce poverty and inequality by 2030, in a country where the unemployment rate is already close to 30%.

DA and jobs, EFF and land

An election poster of the Democratic Alliance (DA), the official opposition in South Africa, claims they will deliver "A job in every home". Another DA poster, with its signature blue, promises to "Keep the lights on," a reference to Eskom, the country's power producer.



Eskom has been implementing load shedding – the term to describe rolling blackouts the company carries out to lessen the strain on the country's electricity grid and avoid a total blackout – over the past few years (March being the most recent occurrence).



According to an Ipsos poll, only about three in ten (29%) South African adults (15 years and older) agree that the country is going in the right direction

Another prominent party is the relatively new Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), which was on the voter's roll for the first time in South Africa's last governmental elections five years ago. The EFF relies heavily on its leader, Julius Malema, to get support from the public. The EFF's election posters feature a smiling Malema dressed in a red beret, proclaiming him to be a "Son of the Soil".

Poll numbers

According to an Ipsos poll, only about three in ten (29%) South African adults (15 years and older) agree that the country is going in the right direction. Young South Africans of voting age share this opinion with less than a third (31%) of 18-24 year olds believing that the country is going in the right direction.

"South Africa demonstrates significant policy uncertainty about important issues and our economy continues to not show growth. These are likely some of the factors that lead to South African discontent with the direction the country is heading in," notes Ipsos.

What is worrying is people's reluctance to register to vote, especially the youth.

According to the voters' roll compiled by The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) – an independent body that manages South Africa's elections to ensure they are credible, free and fair – 26,774,102 South Africans are registered to vote. This means that 10 million South Africans of voting age have chosen not to register, and therefore not to vote, in this election. However, the IEC has indicated that the overall registration level "remains high by international standards for countries with a voluntary registration system".

All over on 11 May

South Africans will know the outcome of the election on 11 May, although the country is relatively certain on what to expect.

According to Ipsos, the ANC will get close to 60% of the vote, the DA 18% and the EFF 10% (assuming a medium-sized turnout at the polls). On the other hand, a poll from the Institute of Race Relations (IRR) shows that the ANC will get 55% of the vote, while the DA polls at 21,8% and the EFF at 12,2%. The final percentages will be influenced by voter turnout. In 2014 more than 80% of eligible voters were registered, although only

73,5% of them actually voted. The almost 27 million registered voters for the election in 2019 – the largest in the history of the country – is about 75% of the eligible voters in South Africa, although it is highly likely that many will stay away and not vote, as in the past.

Making their mark

Many South Africans' apathy can probably be attributed to the fact that of all South Africans eligible to vote, a quarter (25%) are not interested in politics and elections and almost four in every ten (38%) say that

there is no political party expressing their views, says Ipsos. A few things are clear, and although polls are not 100% certain, the probability is high that the ANC will remain in power, the DA will remain the official opposition, and that the EFF will march on.

There is less than one week left until the elections, so it is doubtful that political parties can still sway some voters. The hope is that all registered voters do actually go out and vote for the party they believe can steer the country in the right direction.



What are your hopes for the SA 2019 elections and why are they so important?

Jennifer Leppington-Clark

Managing Director, Hill+Knowlton Strategies, South Africa

I hope that we will continue to enter a period of renewal for the country. There is a lot of negativity – load shedding is one example – but South Africans are resilient and they need some good news and positive change. I think too many of our political parties focus on what the other is doing wrong and not enough on what they themselves will be doing if they win the elections.

Lindokuhle Magasela

Media Relations Specialist, Hill+Knowlton Strategies, South Africa

There's a lot hanging on these elections, because it's the youth who get to make the decision. In a time where we are influenced by our own experiences and not those of our parents, we are able to make an informed decision based on not only what we see and hear, but what we know for sure. My first time voting was based on what our family thought would be the right party to vote for, but now it's us the youth who inform our families of what is actually happening, giving us a real opportunity to change our futures. I absolutely can't wait to place my 'x' on the ballot, and hopefully be part of the change our country is eagerly awaiting.

Niel Joubert

Financial and Professional Services Specialist, Hill+Knowlton Strategies, South Africa

My hope is that people do some research on the parties – what their policies are, what they stand for, etc. I know this is difficult, especially since we have 48 parties on the ballot – a record for South Africa – but I would hope that each South African at least tries to read up on a few parties that seem interesting to them, and then make a more informed decision.

Adelaide Tshabalala

Digital Specialist, Hill+Knowlton Strategies, South Africa

South Africans should stop placing their hopes on the 48 political parties standing in the 2019 national election and realise that the real power is with them. I hope people start waking up to the fact that it is actually our collective responsibility to ensure that the next 25 years are a return to people power. It would be great if the 2019 elections give way to a new rhetoric that prioritises accountability, responsibility and most importantly 'Ubuntu'.

Dimpho Mokoena

Client Service Lead, Hill+Knowlton Strategies, South Africa

This election is almost like a ground zero for the future of the country. In the last few elections we had instances of violence, allegations of rigging and cases of ballot papers being abandoned in parks and bushes. This year, I'm hoping for a fair and peaceful election with minimal irregularity so that the credibility of the election is maintained. I'm also interested to see who the ANC's main opposition is and what direction they are pushing.

Lesego Maletle

Client Service Lead, Hill+Knowlton Strategies, South Africa

In the past few years, there's been a sense of hopelessness in our country; South Africans have lost their faith in our leaders. These elections provide us with an opportunity to make the changes we want to see. Our voices need be heard – let's stop hiding behind social media posts and really take action by voting. That's more powerful than anything else. We need to take responsibility for our lives and our country and cast our votes in order to rebuild our nation.

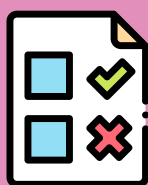
South Africa's electoral system



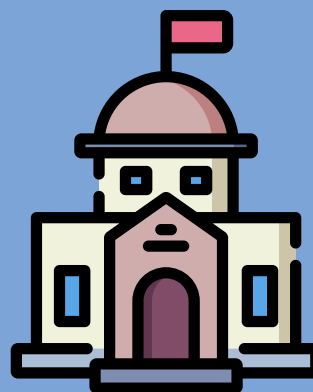
South Africans will be able to choose from 48 parties for the national elections on 8 May



This is 19 more parties than the last elections of 2014



Gauteng is the most contested in provincial elections, with 36 parties on the ballot paper. The Northern Cape, with 21 parties, has the least number of political parties



National and provincial elections are two different elections, held on the same day, to choose representatives to the National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures



The National Government makes and carries out laws and policies for the whole country. It is made up of the Parliament led by the Speaker, and the National Government led by the President and Ministers



The Provincial Governments make and carry out laws and policies that only affect that particular province. They are made up of Legislature led by the Speaker, and Provincial Government led by the Premier and Members of the Executive Council (MECs)

Political News Roundup



Angola

Angola: Former Chief of Staff stresses political forces' role in peace consolidation

Ref: 3 April 2019

Former Liberation Movements are crucial for consolidation of the national reconciliation process, said ex- chief of Staff of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) recently.

[Read more](#)

Angola President criticizes ex-leader for flying foreign airline

Ref: 16 April 2019

The Angolan government said it was "surprised and deeply regrets" that former President Jose Eduardo dos Santos chose to fly on a Portuguese airline recently, instead of the national carrier.

[Read more](#)

Angola mobile tender undermines president's transparency pledge

Ref: 17 April 2019

Since assuming power in 2017, Angolan President Joao Lourenco has repeatedly vowed to steer sub-Saharan Africa's second biggest oil producer into a new era of transparency. Recently he missed a golden opportunity to deliver on that promise.

[Read more](#)

Ethiopia

Ethiopia signs peace deal with former Ogaden rebels

Ref: 13 April 2019

Former rebels belonging to Ethiopia's Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) are going through rehabilitation after recently returning to the country from bases in the neighbouring countries.

[Read more](#)

Ethiopia appoints new defense, foreign ministers

Ref: 18 April 2019

Reshuffling his cabinet for the third time since coming to power a year ago, the reformist Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia appointed new foreign affairs, defence and construction ministers.

[Read more](#)

Eritrea shuts all borders with Ethiopia – unilaterally

Ref: 23 April 2019

In less than a year since the two countries made peace, Eritrea has shut all border crossings with neighbouring Ethiopia, according to reports.

[Read more](#)

Ghana

We've not rescued missing Takoradi girls – Police

Ref: 25 April 2019

A statement posted on the Police's Twitter page said media reports that the teenage girls have been rescued are false. This comes after the Daily Guide Newspaper reported recently that the girls had been found and were receiving medical treatment at an unnamed health facility in Accra.

[Read more](#)

Malaria deaths on decline

Ref: 25 April 2019

Statistics made available to the National Malaria Control Programme by the Ghana Health Service indicate that there has been significant progress made in efforts to control malaria.

[Read more](#)

Cleanest city vision to be achieved after Akufo-Addo's second term – Sanitation Minister

Ref: 24 April 2019

Ghanaians may not see Accra becoming the cleanest city in Africa soon as the Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources, Cecilia Abena Dapaah, seems to have extended the timeline from 2020 to 2024.

[Read more](#)

Kenya

Court allows Huduma Namba registration, bars DNA collection

Ref: 1 April 2019

The High Court has allowed the government to roll out the National Integrated Identity Management System (NIIMS), also known as Huduma Namba, beginning Tuesday, April 2 as had been earlier planned.

[Read more](#)

Kenya, Uganda to survey border in bid to resolve Migingo dispute

Ref: 18 April 2019

Kenya and Uganda will carry out a boundary survey and demarcation as part of efforts to resolve the Migingo Island dispute. Foreign Affairs minister Monica Juma said the project, to be undertaken following a Memorandum of Understanding with Kampala, was part of a wider programme to improve relations between communities living on Kenya's border with other countries.

[Read more](#)

Kenya begins early campaign in bid to win seat on UN Security Council

Ref: 22 April 2019

Kenya has intensified lobbying among peers to gain a seat on the UN Security Council.

[Read more](#)

Mozambique

Finland supports Mozambique recovery effort with donation and technical support

Ref: 3 April 2019

Finland will support Mozambique's recovery from the cyclone that hit the country in mid-March through the Finnish Red Cross and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

[Read more](#)

Frelimo seeks to maintain majority and consolidate power in Mozambique

Ref: 25 April 2019

On 15 October 2019, Mozambique will hold its fifth presidential and parliamentary elections. The contest will mainly be between the ruling Frelimo led by current president, Filipe Nyusi, Renamo as the main opposition party led by recently elected Ossufo Momade and, to a lesser extent, the Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM) which split from Renamo 10 years ago and has been contesting elections only since 2009, led by Daviz Simango.

[Read more](#)

40-year jail term for 10 terrorists in northern Mozambique

Ref: 25 April 2019

A court in northern Mozambique has jailed 10 persons known to have carried out deadly attacks on the local population in some districts of the Cabo Delgado province.

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Nigeria

Nigeria seeks Russia's help to eliminate Boko Haram

Ref: 27 March 2019

The Federal Government has solicited the cooperation of Russia to eliminate the Boko Haram insurgents from Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin countries.

[Read more](#)

CJN: Court asked to declare Justice Muhammad unfit, order new selection



Ref: 23 April 2019

The Abuja Division of the Federal High Court has okayed a fresh suit seeking to bar President Muhammadu Buhari from appointing the Acting Chief Justice of Nigeria, CJN, Justice Tanko Muhammad, to take over the leadership of the judiciary in substantive capacity.

[Read more](#)

Tinubu speaks on rumoured 2023 presidency bid

Ref: 21 April 2019

A former governor of Lagos State and national leader of the ruling All Progressives Congress has panned the reports that he is backing Ahmed Lawan and Femi Gbajabiamila to become Nigeria's Senate president and Speaker respectively for selfish reasons.

[Read more](#)

Nigeria about to face tough economic challenges ~ US Govt

Ref: 17 April 2019

The United States Consulate General, John Bray, has described Nigeria's present economic challenges and future outlook as daunting in view of its explosive population projected to be 450 million by 2050.

[Read more](#)

Rwanda

Tension eases at Rwanda, Uganda border of Gatuna



Ref: 20 April 2019

Rwandans living in the Gatuna border town can now cross over to Uganda without much restrictions, for the first time in two months, as tensions between the two neighbours begin to ease.

[Read more](#)

Rwanda genocide: Macron orders probe of France's role

Ref: 5 April 2019

An estimated 800,000 Rwandans, most from the minority Tutsi community, were killed by ethnic Hutu extremists over 100 days in 1994.

[Read more](#)

Kagame: Experiences have strengthened us

Ref: 9 April 2019

President Paul Kagame said that Rwanda's history over the last 25 years in liberation, recovery and development of the country has served to strengthen the nation in several capabilities, including the ability to defend and protect itself.

[Read more](#)

South Africa

Promises & manifestos: A political wrap one month before elections

Ref: 8 April 2019

It's exactly one month until South Africans take to the polls, electing their preferred political party at the 2019 general elections.

[Read more](#)

Manuel vs EFF: I want to vindicate my name, as well as SARS and Treasury

Ref: 23 April 2019

Trevor Manuel says his court battle with the Economic Freedom Fighters is not only to clear his name, but also to protect the integrity of National Treasury and the SA Revenue Service.

[Read more](#)

The final countdown: DA, EFF and ANC up the ante ahead of elections

Ref: 25 April 2019

In 12 days, South Africans will cast their votes in the 2019 general elections.

[Read more](#)

Tanzania

Tanzania denies blocking release of scathing IMF report

Ref: 24 April 2019

Tanzania has denied blocking the publication of a critical International Monetary Fund report that accuses President John Magufuli's government of undermining economic growth with "unpredictable and interventionist" policies.

[Read more](#)

What next as Tanzanian MPs refuse to work with CAG?

Ref: 7 April 2019

Tanzania's Controller and Auditor General, Prof Mussa Assad, has had a complicated relationship with the National Assembly.

[Read more](#)

Tanzania in plan to establish more mineral trading hubs to fight tax evasion

Ref: 4 April 2019

Tanzania's mineral-rich regions are at advanced stage of establishing government-controlled mineral trading hubs to curb tax evasion and illegal exports of the country's mineral wealth.

[Read more](#)

Uganda

Supreme court quashes age limit appeal

Ref: 18 April 2019

The seven-member panel of Supreme court judges has quashed the consolidated presidential age limit appeal in a 4-3 verdict.

[Read more](#)

Bobi Wine detained, police block music show

Ref: 22 April 2019

Ugandan police detained Bobi Wine, a pop star turned MP who became a high-profile government critic, after shutting down one of his concerts and firing tear gas at his fans.

[Read more](#)

Uganda willing to give Bashir asylum- government



Ref: 16 April 2019

The government of Uganda said it was willing to consider giving asylum to deposed Sudan leader Gen Omar al-Bashir in appreciation for his role in the South Sudan peace deal.

Read more ➤

Zambia

PF wins Bahati, loses Roan

Ref: 12 April 2019

The ruling Patriotic Front -PF- scooped the Bahati parliamentary seat and the Chilyapa Ward by-election in Mansa Central Constituency with landslide victories.

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Government is investigating a political party for promoting homosexuality

Ref: 22 April 2019

Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo disclosed that named opposition political party is being investigated by law enforcement agencies for promoting homosexuality in the country.

Read more ➤

GBM Re-Joins PF...Apologises Lungu for insults showered on him

Ref: 23 April 2019

Former UPND vice president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba has resigned from the opposition political party and immediately re-joined the Patriotic Front (PF).

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Zimbabwe

ED, Chamisa could meet face-to-face

Ref: 24 April 2019

President Emmerson Mnangagwa and MDC leader Nelson Chamisa are set to meet face-to-face at the memorial service of the late MDC founding president Morgan Tsvangirai.

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Mnangagwa warned of brewing unrest

Ref: 23 April 2019

THERE are growing fears that Zimbabwe's fast-deteriorating economic situation - marked by shocking price hikes and severe shortages of foreign currency, fuel and vital medicines - could trigger social and political unrest as has been witnessed in countries such as Sudan and Algeria, the Daily News can report.

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Why won't South Africa walk the talk on Zimbabwe?

Ref: 23 April 2019

There is a gaping chasm between South Africa's verbiage in support of Zimbabwe and its practical support on the ground.

Read more ➤

Economic News Roundup

Angola

It's time to rethink oil and gas as a funding source for development

Ref: 9 April 2019

Oil-price volatility highlights the fragility of a development model based on a single resource. For oil-producing countries the imperative of adopting a more diverse investment strategy can no longer be ignored.

[Read more](#)

Angola expects economic growth to reach 3% on average in 2020/2021

Ref: 4 April 2019

In Angola, growth should average 3% in 2020 and 2021 thanks to a boost of activities in the non-oil sector, the country's finance ministry announced recently.

[Read more](#)

Angola looks to benefit from surge in oil prices

Ref: 24 April 2019

Angola plans to auction nine blocks this year and is seeking to build new refineries as Africa's second-biggest oil producer looks to benefit from a surge in crude prices that could boost companies' appetite for investments.

[Read more](#)

Ethiopia

Addis Ababa to host over 3,000 healthcare professionals

Ref: 24 April 2019

The capital of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa City is set to host an international trade fair and forum focusing on healthcare, medical, pharma and wellness technology, inputs and solutions, the organizers said.

[Read more](#)

China cancels Ethiopia's interest-free loans, PM in Beijing for forum

Ref: 25 April 2019

China has cancelled all interest-free loans it had advanced to Ethiopia as at the end of year 2018, the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's office confirmed.

[Read more](#)

Ethiopia's export income declines 9 Percent

Ref: 25 April 2019

Continuing its decline Ethiopia's export income for the first nine months of the fiscal year started July 8, 2018, goes down by about 9 percent compared to same time last fiscal year.

[Read more](#)

Ghana

BoG is not injecting dollars into economy-Director of Research

Ref: 24 April 2019

The Director of Research at the Bank of Ghana, Mr Philip Abradu-Otoo has debunked reports that the central bank was injecting dollars into Ghana's economy to help stabilize the cedi.

[Read more](#)

Road tolls to be increased

Ref: 24 April 2019

The Minister of Roads and Highways, Kweku Amoako Attah has said the Ministry has submitted to cabinet a proposal to increase road tolls.

[Read more](#)

Akufo-Addo launches planting for export and rural development

Ref: 23 April 2019

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, says the newly inaugurated Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD) programme will enhance the foreign exchange earning capacity of the Ghanaian economy.

[Read more](#)

Ghana can make GHc2 billion, create 5 million jobs by recycling plastics – US Embassy

Ref: 16 April 2019

The United States (U.S.) Embassy in Ghana has urged the country to consider recycling its plastic waste products.

[Read more](#)

Kenya

Employers, employees to start paying 1.5pc levy for housing fund in May

Ref: 16 April 2019

Employers will be required to deduct 1.5 percent of an employee's salary towards the Housing Fund by the 9th of every month starting on May 2019.

[Read more](#)

UK forms special team to aid Kenya seize graft assets

Ref: 18 April 2019

The British government has formed a special team to help Kenya trace and recover assets that are proceeds of corruption and hidden in London.

[Read more](#)

2019 Census: KNBS to divide Kenya into smaller units

Ref: 23 April 2019

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics will conduct a cartographic mapping across the country in preparation for the August census.

[Read more](#)

Mozambique

Cyclone Idai: Mozambique receives \$118m from IMF to rebuild



Ref: 22 April 2019

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced that they will extend a \$118.2 million credit facility to Mozambique to assist with rebuilding infrastructure caused by the devastating cyclone Idai.

[Read more](#)

Nigeria

US Agency commends Nigeria's economic policies

Ref: 25 April 2019

The United States Nigeria Council (USNC) has expressed satisfaction that the positive economic developments taking place in Nigeria would encourage investors.

[Read more](#)

Unlocking \$6bn annual potential of a dying textile industry

Ref: 25 April 2019

The Nigerian textile industry has witnessed a massive decline in the past two decades with many textile companies closing shop and throwing their workers into the job market.

[Read more](#)

W'Bank expresses concern over rising poverty in Nigeria, calls for action

Ref: 25 April 2019

The World Bank has once again expressed concern over the high level of poverty in Nigeria. The Washington-based institution stated this in its 'Poverty and Equity in Nigeria,' for April 2019.

[Read more](#)

We'll ensure payment of N30,000 minimum wage – NLC

Ref: 25 April 2019

The Nigeria Labour Congress recently vowed to ensure the implementation of the new national minimum wage of N30,000 recently signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari.

[Read more](#)

Rwanda

Energy sector gets U.S.\$200 million boost

Ref: 1 April 2019

Rwanda is set to generate extra 56 MegaWatt of electricity after Symbion Power established a \$200 million energy plant on the shores of Lake Kivu.

[Read more](#)

Kenya, Rwanda top region in financial inclusion

Ref: 10 April 2019

Kenya and Rwanda have the highest proportion of their adult populations accessing financial services, a newly-published report says, making them East Africa's most financially inclusive economies.

[Read more](#)

Rwanda, Uganda in top 10 improved travel destinations

Ref: 6 April 2019

Three East African nations are among the top dozen fastest growing destinations for tourism worldwide.

[Read more](#)

South Africa

Relief donations from SA sent to Mozambique, Malawi



Ref: 10 April 2019

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation said recently that relief donations from South African companies, religious organisations and ordinary South Africans had been handed over to the people of Mozambique and Malawi following the devastation wreaked by Cyclone Idai.

[Read more](#)

Chinese entrepreneurs show heart for Mozambique

Ref: 16 April 2019

Chinese entrepreneurs living in 20 African countries have gone on a fund-raising drive to raise money for disaster relief supplies for Mozambique.

[Read more](#)

SA must do 'a lot more' work to improve credit ratings - S&P

Ref: 12 April 2019

It has been two years since S&P downgraded SA's foreign currency debt to junk status, and the sticking point is its weak economic performance, an official of S&P Global Ratings has said.

[Read more](#)

Transforming South Africa's fishing industry key to unlocking economic growth – Zokwana

Ref: 24 April 2019

Substantive transformation in South Africa's fishing industry remains a challenge and requires a collective responsibility and focus given its potential to unlock economic growth, agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister Senzeni Zokwana has said.

[Read more](#)

SA economy is stuck in the political mud

Ref: 26 April 2019

The backdrop for the 2019 general elections is an economy in crisis. With record unemployment and persistent low growth, the country's economy is feeling the heat like a frog in a pot of boiling water.

[Read more](#)

Tanzania

Tanzania makes \$310 million advance payment for dam on heritage site

Ref: 24 April 2019

Tanzania made an advance payment of \$309.65 million to a joint venture of Egyptian companies for the construction of a hydropower dam on a UNESCO World Heritage site, despite strong opposition to the project from conservationists.

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Tanzania to ban plastic bags by June

Ref: 14 April 2019

Tanzania has announced that it will ban single-use polythene bags from June in the war against plastic pollution.

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Tanzania records increase in exports

Ref: 23 April 2019

Tanzania's exports of goods and services increased to \$890 million in February from \$698.6 million in the month January, according to the Bank of Tanzania's monthly economic review for March.

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Uganda

Two bombardier CRJ900 jets arrive in Uganda

Ref: 23 April 2019

President Museveni received two bombardier CRJ900 jets at Entebbe International Airport.

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Government hunting for new UTL investor

Ref: 23 April 2019

Government is searching for a fresh investor to take up Uganda Telecom's (UTL) operations after parting ways with Taleology, a Nigerian telecom company.

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Central bank to take over mobile money regulation

Ref: 24 April 2019

Government is drafting a new law in which it will transfer regulation of mobile money services to Bank of Uganda [BoU], according to the central bank Deputy Governor Louis Kasekende.

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Zambia

Zambia-China trade hits US\$ 5 billion

Ref: 4 April 2019

The bilateral trade volume between Zambia and China has reached US\$5 billion for the first time in the 55 years history of economic and mutual cooperation between the two countries.

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World Bank cuts Zambia's 2019 GDP growth forecast

Ref: 8 April 2019

The World Bank sees Zambia's economic growth slowing in 2019, to 3.3 percent from 3.5 percent seen last year, as the southern African nation's growing debt pile and weakening currency put pressure on government revenue, the lender said.

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IMF sharply cuts Zambia's GDP growth target for next year, sees higher inflation above 10%

Ref: 10 April 2019

The International Monetary Fund has projected that Zambia's economic growth will fall to 2.9 percent next year from the 3.1 targeted for this year.

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Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's plan for compensating white ex-farmers

Ref: 9 April 2019

Zimbabwe's government said it would start compensating white commercial farmers whose properties were seized nearly 20 years ago under Robert Mugabe's land reforms.

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Zimbabwe reaches agreement with IMF on economic reform program

Ref: 11 April 2019

Zimbabwe has reached agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a program of economic policies and structural reforms that could pave the way to the crisis-hit country re-engaging with international financial institutions.

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Mnangagwa livid over Zimbabwe price increases

Ref: 19 April 2019

Zimbabwean leader, Emerson Mnangagwa criticised business leaders for price increases as companies in the struggling economy cushion their bottom lines by hiking prices in line with steep rises in the parallel market currency rates.

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