



# **Numsa Media Monitor**

**Wednesday 13 July 2016**

**A daily compilation of local, national and international articles dealing with labour related issues**

## **South African workers**

### **Farmworkers' strike in the spotlight in Witzenberg Municipality**

*Ilze-Marie Le Roux, EWN, 11 July 2016*

Fawu says the Witzenberg municipality didn't do enough to assist them during the wage strikes.

JOHANNESBURG – Local government's response to the 2014 farmworkers' strike is in spotlight in the Witzenberg Municipality.

The Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) says the municipality didn't do enough to assist them during the wage strikes.

The union further claims wealthy outside forces are influencing councillors.

The build-up to the local government elections build up activities took place in Witzenberg this afternoon.

Fawu's Mxolisi Mngxunyeni claims outside forces have been influencing councillors to in turn prohibit farm workers from striking.

"Those who are a rich are dominating the local government, the municipalities, because they have the means to exploit those who don't have anything."

But local mayor Bernito Claassen rubbishes Mngxunyeni's claim.

"We are, at all times, acting within the scope provided by our communities through our planning sessions and through our engagement with the community."

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The Democratic Alliance's mayoral candidate reiterates the municipality maintains a good relationship with the private sector as well as surrounding communities.

<http://ewn.co.za/2016/07/11/Farmworkers-strike-in-spotlight-in-the-Witzenberg-Municipality>

### **Platinum industry wage talks start Tuesday**

*Rhulani Baloyi, 12 July 2016*

The Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) says it will demand R12 500 as a minimum wage for its lowest paid members.

This comes as the union is set to start wage talks with Anglo American Platinum, Impala and Lonmin on Tuesday.

The union's president Joseph Mathunjwa says the lowest paid workers currently take home around R8 000.

Amcu first introduced the R12 500 monthly salary on the platinum belt in 2012.

Rising costs, labour unrest and plunging global commodity prices have been squeezing the platinum sector in South Africa.

The union made similar pay demands during the platinum wage talks in 2014 as well as in the gold sector in 2015, saying it was seeking a living wage for its members.

In both instances the union was unsuccessful, which triggered a record five month work stoppage in the platinum sector.

The platinum industry is still recovering from recent strike action with Lonmin and Implats forced to raise cash from investors and Amplats hastening its mechanisation drive through sales.

<http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/b470ef004d767f23a9e1ef4b5facb1b5/->

### **NUM vows to fight job losses at Sibanye Gold**

*SABC/ANA, 11 July 2016*

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) on Monday vowed to fight against impending job losses at Sibanye Gold's Cooke 4 and called on Minister of Mineral Resources Mosebenzi Zwane to intervene.

This comes after Sibanye Gold announced that it had begun talks with unions for job cuts at its Cooke 4 mine and at Ezulwini Gold and Uranium processing plant due to "continued operational underperformance and accumulating financial losses".

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Sibanye's Cooke underground and surface assets in Westonaria, west of Johannesburg, had been making losses since they were acquired from Gold One Limited in May 2014.

NUM said it would fight tooth and nail to make sure that its members at Sibanye Gold Cooke 4 operations were not retrenched cheaply. "We will engage Sibanye Gold in an effort to stop the jobs bloodbath," the NUM said in a statement.

"NUM is shocked and saddened with the section 189 notice to retrench about 1 702 workers at Sibanye Gold Cooke 4 operation in Westonaria."

NUM said the retrenchment of 1 702 workers was bad because most mineworkers supported 10 people per family.

"Many people will be affected by the retrenchment. NUM calls for Sibanye Gold to implement Section 189 in alignment with Section 52 of the Minerals Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA)," NUM said.

The MPRDA states that if the company aims to retrench 10 % or more workers, it has to inform the Minister of Minerals Resources.

"NUM request the Minister to intervene and stop the drastic action by the company that will leave hundreds of workers in a dire situation," NUM said.

<http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/b0e3a1804d749315b16aff4b5facb1b5/NUM-vows-to-fight-job-losses-at-Sibanye-Gold-20160711>

### **'No permanent job, No vote,' ANC told**

*Zintle Mahlali, Independent Media, 11 July 2016*

Johannesburg - Workers from Ekurhuleni Municipality's Lungile Mtshali Community Development Project say they will not vote for ANC unless they are made permanent employees.

Dressed in ANC regalia and green overalls over a hundred contract workers marched outside Luthuli House on Monday.

The Lungile Mtshali Community Development Project was launched in 2014 by Ekurhuleni mayor Mondli Gungubele with the aim of creating jobs and alleviating poverty in the metro.

Since its launch, R1 million has been allocated to the city's 101 wards for the employment of a few residents who would be trained while being employed.

About 3 000 are contracted to the project and their latest contracts are due to expire in August.

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Jabu Ntombela, who took part in the protest, said all she wanted was to be a permanent worker.

"No permanent no vote. We have been back and forth with this project now we want to earn more money and look after our families," said Ntombela.

Nomsa Duba told Independent Media that she would be back marching at the ruling party's door-step on August 3, if she wasn't made permanent.

"If we don't get an answer, we will be back on election day. That day is around the corner," explained Duba, followed by cheers from her fellow colleagues.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/no-permanent-job-no-vote-anc-told-2044130>

### **Unions fear government inaction in mining crisis**

*Karl Gernetzky, Business Day, 13 July 2016*

TRADE unions have called on government to intervene in the mining sector, with both Cosatu and Solidarity lamenting government's "passive stance" to a sector in which jobs were under threat.

"The passive posture of our government to this crisis is deeply worrying because it is now obvious that the mining sector is not just facing a cyclical downturn, but a fundamental shift in the world economy that poses a threat to our entire national economy," Cosatu spokesman Sizwe Pamla said.

August marks a year since business, labour and the government agreed on a 10-point declaration to mitigate job losses in the mining sector.

However, Solidarity general secretary Gideon du Plessis said on Tuesday no subsequent discussions had taken place and that the issue of job losses in the industry was now "reactive".

The declarations included a joint promotional initiative to promote SA's minerals; an agreement to ensure forced retrenchments were a last resort; an agreement to enhance productivity; and an agreement that would ensure companies would seek to sell marginal assets rather than mothball them.

The agreement under the Mining Growth Development and Employment Task Team was signed by then mineral resources minister Ngoako Ramatlhodi.

"The 10-point plan was exactly the input to the requirement, the output was to implement the initiatives," Du Plessis said.

"At the moment, we are again reinventing the wheel."

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/labour/2016/07/13/unions-fear-government-inaction-in-mining-crisis>

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## **Metrobus services expected to resume today**

*Thando Kubheka, EWN, 13 July 2016*

Commuters were left stranded this week, after bus services along over 200 routes in JHB were suspended.

JOHANNESBURG - Metrobus said that it expected all of its services to be back to normal today after the company and unions reached an agreement.

Thousands of commuters were left stranded this week, after the bus service shut down over 200 routes in Johannesburg.

Drivers were unhappy that Metrobus had contracted a private company to do inspections.

An agreement was reached to offer drivers an opportunity of progressing to inspectors over a period of time.

The City of Johannesburg's, Virgil James, said that commuters can expect buses to operate from this morning.

"We encourage them to get onto the bus routes so that they can get to work. We are confident that most people should be reporting for duty [on time]."

<http://ewn.co.za/2016/07/13/Metrobus-services-expected-to-be-back-to-normal-today>

## **'Flood of security' promised after Metrorail driver killed**

*Tshego Lepule, Daily Voice, 13 July 2016*

Cape Town - Two people have been arrested within hours of the murder of a train driver, whose death caused major train delays when his shocked colleagues downed tools, demanding safer working conditions.

The protest led to Metrorail promising to "flood the system" with security guards, according to the United National Transport Union (UNTU).

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/flood-of-security-promised-after-metrorail-driver-killed-2044813>

## **Cosatu to strike over poor transport in CT today**

*Petrus Botha, ENCA, 12 July 2016*

Cosatu has argued bus and train services are far from satisfactory and impact on workers' lives.

CAPE TOWN – Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) in the Western Cape will lead a strike today over poor public transport services in Cape Town.

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The trade union federation has argued that bus and train services are far from satisfactory and impact on workers' daily lives.

Cosatu's Tony Ehrenreich said that a protest march will also be staged later today.

He added that public transport needed to be drastically improved in the city.

<http://ewn.co.za/2016/07/12/Cosatu-to-strike-over-poor-transport-in-WC-today>

## **SABC**

### **ANC cold front nips at Hlaudi**

*Olebogeng Molathwa, The Times, 13 July 2016*

Reality is closing in on the SABC's top management, in particular COO Hlaudi Motsoeneng, until recently believed to be untouchable.

ANC secretary-general Gwede Mantashe yesterday warned the broadcaster's managers that they were mistaken to believe that no one could tell them what decisions they could or could not take.

Mantashe - speaking to reporters following Monday's meeting of the party's national working committee - said the broadcaster would be the subject of "urgent attention" by the ANC caucus in parliament.

The national working committee put its weight behind the decision by the party's communications sub-committee to denounce the SABC's decision not to broadcast images of protesters burning public property.

Mantashe said the SABC was doing a disservice to South Africans by filtering the news.

"An ignorant society cannot be a democratic society. Someone should whisper in the ears of the people at the SABC that they cannot be like bulls in a china shop.

"To think they cannot be touched is a very mistaken view," said Mantashe.

"We're hoping the SABC will realise that defying calls by society will not make it a better public broadcaster."

Mantashe's comments were made after Motsoeneng said on Monday that the corporation would defy the ruling of the Independent Communications Authority of SA that it reverse its decision not to air images of protesters destroying property.

The SABC was given seven days from Monday to confirm to Icasa that it had implemented the ruling.

But Motsoeneng and SABC board chairman Mbulaheni Maguvhe said the regulator's ruling would be taken on review, possibly in the Constitutional Court.

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Until then, the SABC ban would stand.

Right2Know campaign organisers said yesterday that the Icasa ruling was one win in a larger campaign.

They said Motsoeneng remained "deaf to the massive public outcry against the censorship, purges, propaganda, cronyism and financial mismanagement that have come to define the SABC".

The DA yesterday said it would ask the Supreme Court of Appeal to deny the petitions of the SABC board and Minister of Communications Faith Muthambi for leave to appeal the setting aside by the Cape Town High Court of Motsoeneng's appointment as permanent COO of the SABC.

The party said that, given recent events, Motsoeneng and the SABC should end their "vexatious litigation".

The SA National Editors' Forum welcomed Icasa's ruling, saying the SABC's decision to censor the news threatened to return it to the dark days of apartheid.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/thetimes/2016/07/13/ANC-cold-front-nips-at-Hlaudi>

## **South Africa**

### **Poll claims ANC may need coalitions**

#### **It would lose ground if election were held today, says 'C-Voter'**

*TNA Reporter, The New Age, 12 July 2016*

If the local government elections were held today, the ANC would have to enter into coalition agreements with some opposition parties to retain control of Gauteng's municipalities.

Latest research conducted by international polling organisation C-Voter, on behalf of The New Age and ANN7, reveals that the ANC would only capture 35.7% of the votes compared to the DA's 39% and Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)'s 20.3%.

The research said the ANC would have lost the confidence of 17.9% of the province's electorate since the last local government elections.

A similar picture is painted across the other provinces where the ruling party has shed support. This includes the Eastern Cape (-8.3%), Free State (-12.2%), KZN (-3.1%), Limpopo (-21.6%), Mpumalanga (-21.3%), North West (-12.3%) and Northern Cape (-5.9%).

Ironically, according to the research, the ANC's support in the Western Cape grew by 4.8%. However, the DA would still retain control with 47.9% compared to the ANC's 37.6%.

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The latest research was based on a sample of 8 770 respondents and a 5% statistical error margin.

It said the major beneficiaries of the ANC's loss of support were the DA and EFF.

The possible swing of voter support to the EFF, which is contesting local government elections for the first time, would be a major concern for the ANC ahead of the August 3 polls.

The Tshwane metro, which was rocked by violent clashes following the ANC's nomination of Thoko Didiza's as the party's mayoral candidate, is expected to be a major battleground.

According to the latest research, the ANC should also be worried about the 2019 national and provincial elections as the trends indicate that the party is also losing the confidence of the electorate at national and provincial levels.

Voting trends at a national level indicated that the ANC would only garner 41.9% of support compared to the DA's 19.2% and the EFF's 13.4%.

In the 2014 national election, the ANC received 62.15%, the DA 22.23% and the EFF 6.35%.

In Gauteng, the ANC obtains 30.9% support, the DA 30.7% and EFF 17.2%.

Twenty-two percent of those polled indicated that they would never vote for the ANC, 20.6% for the DA and 26.5% for the EFF.

<http://tนาepaper.co.za/DRIVE/main%20edition/12072016/epaperpdf/4.pdf>

### **ANC councillor told to remove SACP cap**

*The Mercury, 12 July 2016*

Durban - An ex-ANC councillor who is standing as an independent in the August 3 elections was criticised by ANC members for donning SACP regalia at the Durban City Hall on Monday where contestants were signing an Electoral Commission code of conduct.

Thulani Khunju, who is an outgoing Ward 57 councillor, was wearing an SACP cap and a yellow T-shirt.

ANC members who were present instructed him to take off the SACP cap.

The treasurer of the ANC in eThekweni, Barbara Fortuin, confirmed the incident, but said: "We did not make any commotion about it and the IEC officials told the candidates to wear their own party's regalia so as to not cause any unnecessary tension."

Municipal electoral officer Siphon Cele denied there was a commotion.

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“We did not witness any. The SACP is not a party that contests elections, so there was no issue. A person can be a member of any political party and still be a member of the SACP. There was no issue,” he said.

Khunju could not be reached for comment.

During the session, there were complaints made to the IEC about candidates who were absent but had sent people to represent them.

While the programme director was calling candidates to sign, eThekweni ANC mayoral candidate Zandile Gumede went to the front to complain about a woman who came to sign for an independent candidate. “If there is no consistency and fairness while we are signing a code of conduct, what’s next when we contest elections?” she asked.

The IEC officials ruled that candidates had to sign themselves.

There was a multi-faith intercession for fair and peaceful elections and all the candidates present pledged to adhere to the IEC’s code of conduct.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/anc-councillor-told-to-remove-sacp-cap-2044608>

## **CP, ANC in Mpumalanga bury hatchet**

*Independent Media, 11 July 2016*

Mbombela – The South African Communist Party (SACP) in Mpumalanga has said that it will continue to help its alliance partner, the ruling African National Congress (ANC) in the forthcoming local government elections, this despite violent clashes between the two organisations earlier this year.

Provincial SACP secretary Bonakele Majuba said on Sunday his party was campaigning for the ANC in the August 3 local government polls, but admitted there were still tensions between the two parties but that this was not enough to deter the SACP from garnering voter support for the ANC.

“We can’t be sure of whether there will be other clashes in the future because people were educated differently about politics,” said Majuba.

“Relations between us and the ANC are better now, but there will always be differences, just like in many families. Mpumalanga is the home of the ANC. We want the ANC to win the elections overwhelmingly. We are convinced we will still retain the ANC’s majority victory.”

In January, hostilities between the two alliance partners saw a group of ANC members preventing their SACP counterparts from entering KaNyamazane hall outside the capital Mbombela.

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The gathering was disrupted and former ANC treasurer-general Mathews Phosa was also barred from giving a memorial lecture.

The SACP also demanded the resignation from public office of Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza due to what it called rampant corruption in his administration. Allegations also emerged at the time suggesting that the SACP was using Phosa to force Mabuza out office.

Majuba dismissed the allegations, saying the SACP could never have used Phosa as he was a seasoned cadre of the ANC.

ANC provincial spokesperson Sibusiso Themba said the SACP's election campaign for his party was visible on the ground.

"The alliance in the province is united," said Themba. "Everything between the ANC and the SACP was resolved and we are expecting a 90% victory in the coming elections."

Phosa and Mabuza could not be reached for comment.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/sacp-anc-in-mpumalanga-bury-hatchet-2044191>

## **International**

### **The simple genius of Zimbabwe's #ThisFlag protest, and the man who started it**

*Simon Allison, Daily Maverick, 13 July 2016*

Pastor Evan Mawarire started the most subversive protest movement in Zimbabwe's recent history by accident. He was fed up with the state of his nation, and decided to share his frustrations online. Turns out that he's not the only frustrated Zimbabwean. In an in-depth interview, Mawarire tells SIMON ALLISON why Zimbabwe is broken – and how citizens can start fixing it.

The day that he lost it, the day that he'd finally had enough, Pastor Evan Mawarire was sitting at his desk at his office in Harare. The 39-year-old Zimbabwean is a professional master of ceremonies – his church doesn't pay him a salary – but work has been scarce in this tough economic climate, with little sign of things getting any better. So bad, in fact, that he didn't know if he would be able to keep his children in school.

"I'll be honest with you, the day it happened was a really tough day for me. I was thinking of ways I could get more money for school fees, or I could borrow money, but it just wasn't happening. I was packing to go home," said Mawarire, in an in-depth telephone interview with the Daily Maverick.

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And then something snapped. After decades of struggling to make a living and keep his family safe, of quietly disappearing into the background like upstanding citizens are expected to by the current regime, Mawarire decided that he would disappear no more.

“I had that moment where it just became clear, wait a second, this country has gone completely broken because people like me have stayed quiet,” he said.

Without much thought or consideration of what would come next – never mind a script – Mawarire grabbed a Zimbabwean flag and put it around his neck. He balanced his camera on the desk, put on a little mood music, and vented.

“When I look at the flag it’s not a reminder of my pride and inspiration, it feels as if I just want to belong to another country. This flag. And so I must look at it again with courage and try to remind myself that it is my country,” he tells the camera. His head isn’t completely in the frame, and the focus is slightly off, but it doesn’t matter: Mawarire’s pain is obvious, and conveyed with such eloquence and feeling that, by the end of his four-minute monologue, you can’t help but feel it too.

Mawarire posted his video online, with the comment: “#ThisFlag. If I have crossed the line then I believe it was long overdue. I’m not a politician, I’m not an activist...just a citizen #ThisFlag.”

The video attracted hundreds of hits. Then thousands. Then tens of thousands. In Zimbabwe’s relatively tiny social media bubble, Pastor Evan’s message hadn’t just got viral, it had gone full-on pandemic. The pent-up frustrations of Zimbabwe’s hashtag generation had found their trigger – and, more important, their hashtag.

#ThisFlag took on a life of its own. Ordinary people started posting pictures to Mawarire’s Facebook account, of themselves wrapped up in the Zimbabwean flag. Others wrote in to tell Mawarire that he had somehow expressed the very words and feelings that they had kept locked up in their heads for too long, and that he wasn’t alone.

“Surprised is not the word. I was shocked by the reaction. It was massive, like an avalanche. It was from everywhere,” said Mawarire.

He reacted to all the enthusiasm by declaring five days of digital activism under the #ThisFlag banner, which he then, by popular demand, extended to 25 days. The last day is 25 May, Africa Day, although Mawarire says that this is just the start – although he’s not sure of what exactly.

“The 25th is not when we stop but when we start, where we start to push them to accountability. The last 25 days have been us waking up, us knowing that we all have these frustrations. Going forward I’d love to see us more organised, to put a strategy in place as citizens to continue to expose their failings... A lot of people

have got to a place where, like me, they didn't know what to do, but they really just want Zimbabwe to work," he said.

Zimbabwe, of course, does not work. Belying his age and ailing health, President Robert Mugabe clings on to power with extraordinary energy, stifling dissent and opposition at every turn. The economy is running out of precious US dollars, grinding to a halt as a result, and everyone knows the government's new plan to resurrect the Zimbabwean dollar will only make things worse. Unemployment is skyrocketing, inflation is getting out of control, corruption is rife and the country's once-proud health and education sectors are in tatters.

Pointing out these or any other of the country's flaws is a dangerous business, however. More than a year ago, activist Itai Dzamara, a prominent critic of Mugabe's regime, was abducted by suspected state security agents. He has not been seen since. Mwarire knows that he too is at risk.

"I couldn't lie to you to say that I feel completely safe. I don't have enough resources to hire a security team or equipment. The only safety I have are my fellow citizens, the people who know me, the people around me. People have said that I could leave the country but I can't. This is home. Everything I have is here. I could leave but then what?

"Even my parents have sat me down and said listen, this is a very dangerous thing you're getting involved in. But this is part of the problem, we live with this every day in Zimbabwe. It's been very difficult to speak out, and because it's so dangerous we warn each other off speaking, we put the fear into each other. State security doesn't have to tell people not to talk, we do it for them. I'm not brave, I'm scared, but the bottom line is I've had enough and I can't do it any more," he said.

One night, Mwarire received an anonymous phone call from a persistent stranger. Using the pastor's words against him, the stranger told Mwarire that "this flag around your neck can strangle you, and if you carry on like this it will strangle you". Mwarire was chilled. "That was the darkest phone call I have ever received. I will never forget that. But I tried not to show fear, so I told him if he was going to strangle me, he would be there strangling me already, not on the phone."

Officially, the government has mocked and belittled Mwarire and his accidental campaign. On Twitter, higher education minister Jonathan Moyo, in his inimitable style, dismissed the whole movement as nothing more than a "pastor's fart in the corridors of power", and implied that Mwarire was using the campaign to make money and encourage attendance at his church. Moyo described #ThisFlag supporters as nameless and faceless trolls, and initiated his own social media campaign, #OurFlag, which hasn't been taken up with quite as much enthusiasm.

"The first contact that I had with ministers was very hostile, very demeaning. It was very 'oh please keep quiet', 'oh please you're trying to get popular', 'oh please you're

trying to drive people to your church'... for me, their response showed the exact problem we're dealing with. Government officials don't believe that citizens have a right to hold them to account," said Mawarire.

Mawarire fiercely maintains that he is nonpartisan with no ties to any political parties. And he's determined to keep #ThisFlag neutral, saying that politicians from across the political spectrum have failed Zimbabwe – not just the ruling Zanu-PF.

But this hasn't stopped opposition parties from capitalising on the sudden wave of discontent that Mawarire's movement has generated. Last week, two opposition MPs were ejected from Parliament for wearing the Zimbabwean flag around their necks. Imagine that: it is now an offence to display the national flag in the national assembly.

More than anything else, this incident illustrates the sheer absurdity of Zimbabwean politics – and the simple genius of Mawarire's protest. In reclaiming the flag, #ThisFlag has appropriated the state's most potent symbol. They have seized the one icon that the state can't ban or suppress, and made it their own. The flags that fly above government buildings, the flags that are pinned on the chests of government officials, the flags that fly on the bonnets of President Mugabe's motorcade, these are all now subversive acts that the regime cannot ignore – or does so at its peril.

Mawarire is insistent that he is not pushing for revolution, or regime change, or anything like that. He doesn't want the inevitable violence and bloodshed on his conscience. What he does want to do, he says, is to break the fear that keeps Zimbabwe's citizens in line; to give Zimbabweans the space and the courage to confront their problems and hold their government to account. Oh, and one more thing – to pay his children's school fees.

<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2016-05-22-the-simple-genius-of-zimbabwes-thisflag-protest-and-the-man-who-started-it/#.V4YNzU3IrlU>

## **Comment and analysis**

### **ANC fires lay to waste Treasury's sweat and toil**

*Carol Paton, Business Day, 12 July 2016*

DOES the National Treasury still have a grasp on where SA is going? Every February and October, it always surprises to the upside, delivering pretty much what the markets and ratings agencies want to see — in the main prudence, discipline and a credible plan to achieve key objectives.

In the past year, this meant tax increases and promises to slow the growth of the public sector wage bill. But in February, a promise was also made to restore growth through structural reforms. The Treasury knows, as does everybody else, that

without growth, SA will slide inexorably into crisis. So, in February, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan promised: to relieve infrastructure bottlenecks, especially the electricity supply; to improve policy co-ordination; to reform state-owned enterprises, especially their governance and the debt burden they place on the fiscus; to sort out the mining regulation regime; to stabilise labour relations and to speed up broadband and spectrum allocation.

Progress has been made on the alleviation of electricity constraints, aided by shrinking demand of almost 1%. With added capacity from Medupi and Ingula, Eskom has been able to meet demand without load-shedding for 11 months. It is anticipated that a deal on strike balloting will be announced soon. This would lower the risk of protracted labour action by preventing strikes by coercion.

But other than that, we are nowhere. Communications Minister Faith Muthambi is years behind with the digital migration process, which means that spectrum cannot be freed up and so broadband cannot be allocated.

The mining bill has made no progress. It did not reappear at Parliament in the last session. The bill has been stalled for 18 months, despite repeated promises that it will be finalised.

State-owned enterprises continue to charge recklessly ahead, engaging in transactions and making deals with no regard for the Treasury or the laws that govern them. Taken by surprise by Denel in January, which entered a joint-venture without their permission, it might have been expected that the Treasury would have tightened the screws and increased its oversight. But since then, it has twice been caught unaware by the Strategic Fuel Fund, which sold the country's strategic fuel stock and announced an audacious bid for the R14bn assets of Chevron SA.

The SABC is ploughing through its cash reserves like water. By the time the Treasury gets up to speed, it will likely be too late and the broadcaster will be knocking on the door for another guarantee. SAA continues on its path of destruction, circumventing treasury rules to do transactions that are risky and madly expensive, and engaging in far-reaching business transactions such as restructuring R15bn of debt, which the Public Finance Management Act says can't be done without the Treasury's involvement.

The promised reform of state-owned enterprises, headed by Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa and Public Enterprises Minister Lynne Brown, stretches into the future.

It's not surprising that so little progress was made in a chaotic political environment. The wider ANC is at war with the Zuma ANC — most explicitly over broadcasting, SAA and Denel, but also over the exercising of presidential power. The SACP is also at war with the Zuma ANC, Cosatu is paralysed and politically ineffective, other than to vote with the Zuma bloc, and the leading lights of the liberation struggle have been reduced to writers of letters to the president.

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The structural reforms listed by Gordhan, and urged by ratings agencies, the IMF and business, all require political muscle. Even in the heyday of the Treasury's power under Trevor Manuel and Maria Ramos, who had presidential support in Thabo Mbeki, no headway was made. Now, with the ANC split and a president who exercises power capriciously, the Treasury has become an observer as things slide further into disrepair.

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/opinion/columnists/2016/07/12/anc-fires-lay-to-waste-treasurys-sweat-and-toil>

## **Law to ban hate speech is targeting a sideshow**

*Steven Friedman, Business Day, 13 July 2016*

IF GOVERNMENTS want to duck an issue, they usually appoint a commission of inquiry. Sometimes, passing a law can achieve the same result.

In response to racist rants that claim the attention of the tweeting classes, the government has moved to show that it takes racism seriously by proposing a law to ban hate speech.

But this shows that it is ducking the issue. It targets a sideshow, while ignoring the real action. Anger at estate agents, pastors and guesthouse owners who show contempt for the vast majority of South Africans is usually seen as a sign that we are tackling racism. But it could also divert attention from far more serious racial bias.

As this column and others have pointed out, the Penny Sparrows and Andre Slades are only symptoms of a much deeper problem: that two decades after the end of apartheid, the racial pecking orders of the past still live among us and that most of those who keep them alive would be horrified to be compared with the Neanderthals who proudly display their racial biases.

The racism the country needs to tackle urgently is not that of the obvious bigots — it is the survival, in many of the places where South Africans work or gain knowledge or exchange ideas, of attitudes and ways of doing things that still relegate black people to a back seat.

Often they appear natural and fair because we have become so used to them that we rarely if ever think to challenge them. It is this racism, not the tweets of loud bigots, that holds the country and most of its people back.

If we were serious about racism, we would be talking about why black graduates still find it harder to get a job than whites with the same qualification, or why black people are often shunted into management jobs in which they deal with other black people rather than those in which they make decisions. We would be asking why the education system and national debate often assumes that the thoughts, writings and habits of Europeans and white North Americans are worthwhile, but those of Africans

and Asians are not, or why racial biases persist in some sports. We would acknowledge that our failure to tackle racial divisions is still a far greater barrier to reaching our economic and social potential than the policies that we so hotly debate.

Anger at obvious bigotry might help to do that and at times it does when people use the incidents to point to the deeper problem. But mostly, it makes it more difficult to deal with racism by reducing a failure to create a level playing field for everyone, to the prejudices of a few oddballs. And so the anger, instead of making life more difficult for racism, gives much of it a free pass.

The planned law is the sort of "solution" that this fixation with symptoms produces. It may rid us of the bigotry that inflames passions on social media, but it will do nothing to tackle the racism that really matters. We need a national conversation that acknowledges our failure to deal with race and begins to find ways of correcting this. Passing a law does not take us nearer to that discussion — it distracts us from it.

While tackling the problem is everyone's job, the government must take special blame because tackling racism is meant to be its core goal; voters elected it because it promised to dismantle race privilege.

History may find that the key weakness of the first majority government was its failure to offer a workable strategy for negotiating racial change. It spent most of its time trying to fit black people into the society that the minority built rather than starting a discussion on how to build one in which race does not bestow privilege.

This is why the proposed law seems designed to make the problem go away, not to tackle it. Negotiating a way out of racism is difficult and risky. It may need tough bargaining and creative solutions. A law that targets a small band of obvious racists is the easy option. It enables the government to seem to be dealing with a problem it continues to avoid. Despite all the attempts to wish it away, racism remains this country's most serious problem. It needs a serious response; instead, we are offered a symptom dressed up as a cure.

• *Friedman is director of the Centre for the Study of Democracy.*

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/opinion/columnists/2016/07/13/law-to-ban-hate-speech-is-targeting-a-sideshow>

## **The mistaken identity of Cosatu**

*Editorial, News24, 11 July 2016*

COSATU as an alliance partner to the ANC recently in election posters, trying to drum up support for the ANC seem to be suffering from mistaken identity.

On the election poster COSATU categorically state that voters in South Africa should vote for the ANC to protect their "Workers' Rights".

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This is like admitting that you (COSATU) have actually failed in your duty of actually protecting the rights of the workers, a Federation which is collecting millions, if not billions annually in membership fees for exactly that reason.

For it now to publicly admit its failure and campaigning amongst workers to vote for the ANC to protect their rights is very much double standards.

One need to ask the pertinent question then, why do workers belong to a Union who in turn is part and parcel of the Federation that in its own admission do not or cannot protect the right of the workers whom diligently pay them membership fees to do exactly that.

Is it that the senior management of COSATU has actually become puppets to the puppet master (the ANC) that they feel obligated to drum up support, yet at the same time 'shooting themselves in the foot?'

COSATU you didn't realise the consequences of this one did you?

<http://www.news24.com/MyNews24/the-mistaken-identity-of-cosatu-20160711>

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