

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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South Africa Summary 23 February 2022

Finance minister Enoch Godongwana presents a “Good News” Budget on 23 February as better than expected revenue collection in fiscal 2021/2 allows him not to raise the fuel and Road Accident Fund (RAF) levy for the first time since 1990 and to extend the R350 (\$23.30) per month social relief of distress (SRD) grant for a year at a cost of R44 billion (\$2.93 billion). Tax relief to middle income consumers sees tax brackets increase by 4.5%, costing the Treasury R13.5 billion (\$900m). Businesses share the good fortune with a 1 percentage drop in the corporate tax rate to 27%, while exchange controls are further eased. Godongwana cautions industry to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions. The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) (central bank) raises the repo rate to 4.0% from 3.75% and warns that inflation risks are tilted to the upside, making further interest rate hikes likely. The second part of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture (Zondo Commission) report tackles state corruption at state-owned enterprises Denel and Transnet, and recommends prosecution of the perpetrators. The expert panel investigating the July 2021 insurrection attempt publishes its report, an indictment on the security structures that failed to anticipate and prevent the widespread violence. President Cyril Ramaphosa (2018-present) in his sixth State of the Nation Address once again tries to address the electricity supply shortfall that has hampered South Africa’s economic growth for the past decade, and appoints former SARB deputy governor Daniel Mminele as head of the Presidential Climate Finance Task Team to lead the mobilisation of funds for the just energy transition. The government is preparing to end the national state of disaster regarding Covid-19 but will only do so once legislation is in place that allows government departments to handle the pandemic.

Finance minister Enoch Godongwana delivers maiden Budget ...

Finance minister **Enoch Godongwana** delivered his maiden budget on 23 February. Godongwana told the media briefing ahead of the budget that due to better-than-expected revenue collections, he was more relaxed now than when he was appointed in August:

“When I was appointed in August, my friends said that we have stepped off the abyss and ‘it is up to you how you manage the landing’.”¹

Revenue exceeded the February 2021 Budget projection by R182 billion (\$12.12 billion) or 13.3%. This increased revenue collection by 23.8% relative to the 2020/21 outcome, which was severely impacted by the lockdown restrictions, to R1.547 trillion (\$103 billion). As a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) this was a record high of 24.7% in 2021/22 from only 22.5% in 2020/21. Surprisingly, the Treasury expects only a 3.3% increase in revenue in 2022/23. They base this slow growth on a drop in the prices of commodities that **South Africa** exports, with the palladium price easing to \$1,967 per ounce in 2022 from \$2,400 in 2021, while the iron ore price is assumed to fall to \$119.3 per tonne from \$157.6 per tonne.

Better-than-expected revenue has allowed the Treasury to reduce expected debt issuance relative to the 2020/21 outcome. The value of outstanding Treasury bills will be reduced by R6.8 billion (\$450m) in fiscal 2021/22 compared with the 2020/21 outcome issuance of a net R95.3 billion (\$6.35 billion). In the 2022/23 fiscal year, there will be no net domestic short-term issuance, while in

¹ Budget Media Briefing, 23 Feb 2022

2023/24 short-term debt issuance is forecast at R40 billion (\$2.66 billion) and in 2024/25 this eases to R39 billion (\$2.6 billion).

The Treasury has also cut its issuance of domestic long-term bonds by almost half.² Net issuance is projected to fall to R285.3 billion (\$19 billion) in 2021/22 from R523.4 billion (\$34.85 billion) in 2020/21. It rises to only R330 billion (\$21.97 billion) in 2022/23, compared with the R381.8 billion (\$25.42 billion) forecast in the November 2021 **Medium Term Budget Policy Statement in 2022/23**.

Better-than-expected revenue collection has also allowed the government to extend the R350 (\$23.30) per month social relief of distress (SRD) grant for a year at a cost of R44 billion (\$2.93 billion). Middle income consumers are granted some tax relief by adjusting the tax brackets higher by 4.5%, costing the Treasury R13.5 billion (\$900m). Businesses also share the good fortune with a 1 percentage drop in the corporate tax rate to 27%. In addition, there was no increase in the fuel or **Road Accident Fund** levy for the first time since 1990.

... and cautions industry to reduce carbon dioxide emissions ...

Godongwana said in his media briefing before the Budget that he wants industry to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions. The carbon tax, introduced in 2019, will be progressively increased and exemptions will be reduced in line with South Africa's commitments at **COP26**. The carbon tax rate was increased from R134 (\$8.92) to R144 (\$9.59), effective 1 January 2022. The carbon fuel levy will increase by 1c (\$0.007) to 9c (\$0.06) per litre for petrol, and 10c (\$0.067) per litre for diesel, from 6 April.

The first phase of the carbon tax, with substantial allowances and electricity price neutrality, will be extended to 31 December 2025. However, the carbon tax rate will be progressively increased every year to reach \$26 per tonne. In the second phase, from 2026 onwards, the carbon tax rate will have larger annual increases to reach at least \$30 per tonne by 2030, and the allowances will rapidly fall away. Godongwana said he expects the tax to reach \$100 per tonne by 2050. He urged all companies that have not already done so to develop plans to progressively reduce their emissions over the next ten years,

*"...otherwise they will face these steep taxes. Our exporters will also face overseas border taxes for carbon-intensive goods such as iron and steel, which will reduce their competitiveness."*³

South Africa is the largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitter in **Africa** due to its reliance on coal-fired power stations and ranks as the 12th largest globally. The government has committed to reducing these GHG emissions with ambitious climate change targets. These include having GHG emissions peak in 2025 at 510 million tonnes and decline thereafter to a maximum of 420 million tonnes by 2030.⁴ These targets are in line with the **2012 National Development Plan** and net zero emissions commitments by 2050. Reducing GHG emissions and adapting to climate change will involve a concerted national effort, so achieving a just transition, and promoting resilience to droughts, floods and extreme temperature change, requires the participation of all economic sectors.

... as forex controls on business ease

Companies operating in South Africa can now apply to their authorised dealers (local banks) for permission to invest up to R5 billion (\$330m) from R1 billion (\$70m) previously in offshore assets, provided they comply with the standard foreign investment rules and annual reporting requirements.⁵ Excess income or profits of offshore branches and offices of South African firms may be retained offshore. Companies must also report annually to the **South African Reserve Bank (SARB)** (central bank). The offshore limit for institutional investors such as insurance, retirement

² Budget Review, 23 Feb 2022

³ Budget Review, 23 Feb 2022

⁴ Budget Review, 23 Feb 2022

⁵ Budget Review, 23 Feb 2022

and savings funds is now harmonised at 45% inclusive of the 10% African allowance. These limits were previously capped at 30% or 40% depending on the profile of the institutional investor. Former finance minister **Tito Mboweni** announced sweeping reforms to the exchange control system in 2020, whereby a new modernised system of exchange controls would be introduced. Under this new regime everything would be permitted unless expressly prohibited, promising a new dawn with extremely limited rules to make South Africa far more investor friendly.

Zondo delivers second part of State Capture report to Ramaphosa

Acting chief justice **Raymond Zondo** handed in the second of three parts of his report arising from the **Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture** to President **Cyril Ramaphosa** (2018-present) on 1 February after handing in the first part on 4 January (see *ARC Briefing South Africa Jan 2022*). The third part is due before the end of February. Ramaphosa said in January that he would not make any pronouncements on the findings or recommendations of the **State Capture Report** before he had received all three parts of the report.⁶

The second part of Zondo's report deals with the capture of state-owned arms manufacturer **Denel** and **Transnet**, the logistics company in charge of South Africa's rail system and ports. Zondo said Transnet contracts worth R41.2 billion (\$2.74 billion) were irregularly awarded for the benefit of companies linked to the **Gupta** brothers or their associate, **Salim Essa**, making Transnet the primary site of State Capture accounting for 72.2% of all government and state-owned entity (SOE) contracts that have been linked to State Capture. Zondo named former CEOs **Brian Molefe** and **Siyabonga Gama**, and former CFO **Anoj Singh** as the "primary architects" of State Capture at Transnet:

*"Other instances of wrongdoing also advanced the interests of the Gupta enterprise and the racketeering scheme all of which require further investigation and possible prosecution by the law enforcement authorities on charges related to the specific offences and also (where appropriate) on racketeering charges."*⁷

Investors are waiting to see how speedily prosecutions will result from the inquiry and whether the policy of cadre deployment will be scrapped in favour of civil service based on merit rather than loyalty to the ruling **African National Congress (ANC)**. In his pre-Budget media briefing on 23 February, finance minister Godongwana said the government would pursue the state capture perpetrators "with vigour". **South African Revenue Service (SARS)** commissioner **Edward Kieswetter**, who sat on the same podium as Godongwana at the media briefing before the Budget, said several investigations were in progress, the details of which he could not share with the media. Kieswetter said SARS had sent 43 cases to the **National Prosecuting Authority (NPA)**, which had already resulted in 11 convictions.

Reserve Bank raises repo rate to 4.0% from 3.75%

The move to the upper limit of the SARB's inflation target zone of 3%-6% resulted in the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** increasing the repo rate to 4.0% from 3.75% on 27 January.⁸ Consumer inflation in December rose to 5.9% year-on-year (y/y) from 5.5% y/y in November, bringing annual average to 4.5% from 3.3% in 2020.⁹ In its statement, the MPC noted that higher global inflation is likely to accelerate normalisation of interest rates and balance sheet reductions by major banks. However,

*"It is less certain how far the normalisation process will go and the exact timing, and this uncertainty continues to cause financial market turmoil and capital flow volatility. Risk aversion in financial markets has increased. Economies that failed to take advantage of better global conditions or to reduce large macroeconomic imbalances remain vulnerable."*¹⁰

⁶ Presidency, 4 Jan 2022

⁷ Zondo Report, 1 Feb 2022

⁸ SARB MPC Statement, 27 Jan 2022

⁹ Statistics South Africa, 19 Jan 2022

¹⁰ SARB MPC Statement, 27 Jan 2022

Consumer inflation in 2021 averaged 4.5% and the SARB has increased its forecast for this year to 4.9% from 4.3% in the November forecast. Consumer inflation is expected to average 4.5% in 2023 and in 2024. The SARB assesses risks to the inflation outlook to be to the upside, while moderate medium and long-term inflation projections, higher domestic import tariffs, stronger services inflation, and higher wage demands present additional upside risks:

“Global producer price and food price inflation continued to surprise higher in recent months and could do so again. Oil prices increased strongly through 2021 and are up sharply year to date. Current oil prices sit well above forecasted levels for this year. Electricity and other administered prices continue to present short- and medium-term risks to the inflation forecast.”

The SARB expects growth of only 1.7% this year, rising marginally to 1.8% in 2023 and 2.0% in 2024. In its view, the deceleration in growth from 2021 to 2022 is primarily a result of the fading rebound from the pandemic, alongside a climbdown from high export prices.

Expert panel into July insurrection attempt releases report

The expert panel appointed by President Ramaphosa in August to investigate the attempted insurrection in July released its report on 7 February.¹¹ Rioting and looting erupted in **KwaZulu-Natal (KZN)** and **Gauteng** provinces from 9-13 July after former president **Jacob Zuma** (2009-2018) surrendered himself to **Estcourt** (KZN) police station to begin a 15-month prison sentence handed to him by the **Constitutional Court** for contempt of court in failing to testify at the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into State Capture (see *ARC Briefing South Africa July 2021*). The report questions why South Africa’s security apparatus was unable to prevent the insurrection attempt and why none of the instigators has been prosecuted.

One of the most striking elements of the report is how little President Ramaphosa features in its narrative. Very little is said of his role or conduct, and much of this relates to his belated decision to deploy the military. His seems to be largely a background role, in office but not really engaged.

The orgy of violence that resulted after Zuma went to jail saw thousands of people injured, an estimated 354 killed and over R50 billion (\$3.33 billion) lost to the economy. The report discusses the claims made during the riots that a group of mastermind instigators had been identified, but notes that these instigators have never publicly been identified or arrested:

“If there is such intelligence that has been shared by the intelligence services, the President should address any systemic weaknesses that may have caused such intelligence to escape his review. If the President has received intelligence about the instigators, the question would be why he has not assured the nation that the government will act on this matter.”¹²

Ramaphosa delivers his sixth SONA

In his sixth **State of the Nation Address (SONA)**, delivered on 11 February, President Cyril Ramaphosa accepted collective responsibility for the failure of his government to prevent the attempted insurrection in July.¹³ However, this collective responsibility removes accountability, with no minister held responsible and fired for dereliction of duty. While Ramaphosa did not say whether the organisers would be prosecuted and jailed, he pledged to strengthen the security establishment.

The SONA was generally well received by the business community, as it addressed some of their long-running concerns, including the need to encourage skilled immigration. Ramaphosa noted that the **Critical Skills Work Visa** list, last updated in 2014, would be updated, and the electricity supply shortfall addressed. Ramaphosa announced that he had appointed former SARB deputy governor **Daniel Mminele** as head of the **Presidential Climate Finance Task Team** to lead the mobilisation of climate mitigation funds for the just energy transition. Ramaphosa noted that renewable energy

¹¹ July 2021 Unrest Report, 7 Feb 2022

¹² July 2021 Unrest Report, 7 Feb 2022

¹³ SONA, 11 Feb 2022

production will make electricity cheaper and more dependable, and allow South Africa's industries to remain globally competitive:

*"Properly managed, the energy transition will benefit all... Investments in electric vehicles and hydrogen will equip South Africa to meet the global clean energy future. We will be able to expand our mining industry in strategic minerals that are crucial for clean energy, like platinum, vanadium, cobalt, copper, manganese and lithium. We also have a unique opportunity in green hydrogen, given our world-class solar and wind resources and local technology and expertise."*¹⁴

South Africa prepares to drop national state of disaster ...

South Africa is getting ready to drop the national **State of Disaster** that was first introduced in March 2020 to curb the spread of Covid-19, which has been extended monthly since then, most recently by cooperative governance and traditional affairs minister **Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma** on 11 February, until 15 March.¹⁵ The extension came despite repeated calls by the opposition **Democratic Alliance** and civil society organisations to lift the state of disaster with trade union **Solidarity** and civil rights group **AfriForum** announcing a legal challenge on 18 January (see *ARC Briefing South Africa Jan 2022*).¹⁶ AfriForum CEO **Kallie Kriel** said the state of disaster poses a threat to freedom, as it gives the government extraordinary power to dramatically restrict civil liberties without subjecting such power to parliamentary oversight and decision-making in any way.¹⁷ Solidarity CEO **Dirk Hermann** said the current state of disaster creates major uncertainty for workers, companies and the economy in general, and must therefore be terminated.¹⁸

However, experts warn that South Africa cannot rush to lift its state of disaster, as it risks creating a legal vacuum around ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and regulations. Legislation is needed to allow government departments to keep managing Covid rules. **University of KwaZulu-Natal** professor and deputy vice-chancellor of research and innovation **Mosa Moshabela** said without the state of disaster, the regulations would not stand up in court:

*"Our regulations are linked to the **Disaster Management Act**. If we end it then we don't really have the legislation that is going to anchor those regulations. If anyone were to challenge the regulations in court, they would win."*¹⁹

Business lobby group **Business for South Africa (BUSA)** echoed these concerns, cautioning against lifting the state of disaster too quickly.²⁰ BUSA says there needs to be a streamlined process of integrating regulations, which involves various stakeholders, including the business sector.

President Ramaphosa says the **National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC)** is considering whether the country will continue with the National State of Disaster legislation currently in place, in the context of lower rates of Covid infection. Health department deputy director-general Dr **Nicholas Crisp** said there are several departments that will need to adopt their own regulations and systems:

*"Once the state of disaster is lifted, each minister must implement their own regulations. There will be no National Coronavirus Command Council needed for decisions."*²¹

The number of active cases of Covid-19 in South Africa eased from a record 37,875 on 12 December to 3,118 cases on 23 February.²² According to a statement by the **National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD)**, as of 23 February, the country had recorded 3,665,149 laboratory-confirmed cases

¹⁴ SONA, 11 Feb 2022

¹⁵ Government Gazette, 15 Feb 2022

¹⁶ BusinessTech, 18 Jan 2022

¹⁷ Pretoria News, 19 Jan 2022

¹⁸ Times Live, 2 Feb 2022

¹⁹ Sunday Times, 23 Jan 2022

²⁰ BUSA, 12 Feb 2022

²¹ Dept of Health, 4 Feb 2022

of Covid-19 in South Africa's population of 60 million, with 98,978 Covid-19 related deaths and 3,531,960 recoveries.

The government lifted night-time (midnight to 4am) curfew on 30 December. However, restrictions remain in effect on the size of indoor and outdoor gatherings to 1,000 and 2,000 respectively or 50% of the capacity of the venue. Social distancing and mask wearing are still required. Travellers to South Africa must present a negative PCR test taken fewer than 72 hours before arrival in South Africa.

The **Department of Health** reports that as of 23 February, health professionals have administered 31,218,528 doses of Covid-19 vaccine. To date, 18,958,452 adults are fully vaccinated or 53.5% of the adult population of 35.5 million. Among children aged 12 and older, 1,198,303 vaccine doses have been administered. The number of vaccines administered eased to 88,698 on 23 February from the peak of 241,230 on 29 August 2021.

Planner

8 Mar 2022 **Pretoria (South Africa)** 2021 GDP data;
 22-24 Mar 2022 **Pretoria (South Africa)** SARB MPC meeting;
 24 Mar 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** Fourth SA Investment Conference;
 9-12 May 2022 **Cape Town (South Africa)** Investing in African Mining Indaba;
 17-19 May 2022 **Pretoria (South Africa)** SARB MPC meeting;
 7 Jun 2022 **Pretoria (South Africa)** Q1 2022 GDP data;
 19-21 Jul 2022 **Pretoria (South Africa)** SARB MPC meeting;
 6 Sep 2022 **Pretoria (South Africa)** Q2 2022 GDP data;
 20-22 Sep 2022 **Pretoria (South Africa)** SARB MPC meeting;
 19 Oct 2022 **Cape Town (South Africa)** Medium Term Budget Policy Statement;
 22-24 Nov 2022 **Pretoria (South Africa)** SARB MPC meeting;
 6 Dec 2022 **Pretoria (South Africa)** Q3 2022 GDP data;
 2024 **(South Africa)** General election

Chronology

23 Feb 2022 **Cape Town (South Africa)** *Treasury*. The Treasury in the 2022/23 Budget forecasts revenue growth of 3.3% for fiscal year 2022/23 compared with a 23.8% increase expected in the 2021/22 fiscal year;

23 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Financial Times*. Finance minister **Enoch Godongwana** delivers the state budget, saying government would balance the budget before interest payments by 2024 and debts will peak at 75% of GDP by 2025, and that higher commodity prices will help South Africa reduce its debt sooner than expected;

23 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Reuters*. A source at **China**-based tech giant **Huawei** and a **South African** government official say South Africa's labour department is negotiating a possible out-of-court settlement with a subsidiary of Huawei, which it accuses of failing to comply with local hiring quotas;

22 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Business Tech*. Public service and administration minister **Ayanda Dlodlo** says government plans to introduce lifestyle audits targeting workers who are clearly living beyond their means;

21 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Times Live*. **South African** authorities seize property belonging to **Zimbabwean** vice-president **Constantino Chiwenga's** estranged wife, **Marry Mubaiwa**, in connection to mounting court cases in Zimbabwe;

16 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Business Day*. **Pietermaritzburg High Court** dismisses former President **Jacob Zuma's** attempt to remove the prosecutor from his upcoming corruption trial;

16 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Business Tech*. Transport minister **Fikile Mbalula** warns that **South Africa** could soon face a disaster on par with state-run **Eskom's** electricity crisis as its road infrastructure continues to deteriorate;

16 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Cape Town etc.* Mayor **Geordin Hill-Lewis** says **Cape Town** will be the first load shedding-free city in **South Africa**, as the city opens its first round of procurement of power from independent power producers;

14 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Bloomberg*. Investors say **South Africa** is an attractive market for investors compared to other emerging markets due to contained price pressures, compelling valuations and the boost to commodity prices from **Chinese** economic stimulus;

11 Feb 2022 **Pretoria (South Africa)** *Government Gazette*. Cooperative governance and traditional affairs minister **Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma** extends the **National State of Disaster on Covid-19** until 15 March;

11 Feb 2022 **Pretoria (South Africa)** *BusinessTech*. Home affairs minister **Aaron Motsoaledi** releases the **2022 Critical Skills List**, its first update since 2014;

10 Feb 2022 **Cape Town (South Africa)** *The Presidency*. President **Cyril Ramaphosa** delivers his sixth **State of the Nation Address (SONA)** from **Cape Town City Hall**, extending the **Social Relief of Distress (SRD)** grant until the end of March 2023 in the theme of "let us leave no one behind";

9 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Business Tech*. **United States**-based tech giant **Google** unpacks its plans to assist startups, SMMes and nonprofits in **South Africa**, and help the country's economic recovery process through \$1 billion investment over five years;

9 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Nedbank*. The **Nedbank Project Listing** shows that new projects worth R208.2 billion (\$13.86 billion) were announced in 2021, up from only R72.3 billion (\$4.81 billion) in 2020;

7 Feb 2022 **Pretoria (South Africa)** *The Presidency*. The expert panel report into the July 2021 insurrection attempt questions why security structures were not able to anticipate and prevent the widespread violence;

6 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Business Day*. Cabinet to discuss reserving jobs in some economic sectors for **South African** citizens, in a bid to reverse high unemployment and increasing inequality, ahead of the state of the nation address on 10 February;

6 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Business Day*. President **Cyril Ramaphosa** waits for a formal report from the **Judicial Service Commission** recommending Justice **Mandisa Maya** as its choice for the next chief justice;

6 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Business Day*. **South Africa**-based broadband provider **Smile Telecoms** says it has secured R550m (\$3.58m) in new funding to recapitalise its business as part of a plan that will strengthen and "safeguard" its operations across **Africa**;

6 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Business Day*. **South Africa**-based technology group **4Sight** sets sights on growing its business in **Africa** and is opening a new office in

Namibia, a move the company believes will position it to earn about half its revenue from international operations in the next five years;

6 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Financial Times*. **British House of Lords** member **Peter Hain** calls on **United Kingdom** and other governments to cancel lucrative contracts for companies linked to the **Guptas**, who are widely alleged to have been central to state capture in **South Africa**;

3 Feb 2022 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *News24*. **South Africa's** President **Cyril Ramaphosa** visits northern **Mozambique**, supporting the government's latest effort to reassure neighbours and investors that an **Islamist** uprising is under control;

3 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Mining Weekly*. Labour ministry urges workers at **United-Kingdom-based Rio Tinto's** mines in **South Africa** to report instances of discrimination after the miner released an internal report detailing sexual assault, racism, and bullying across its mines;

1 Feb 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Financial Times*. Second part of three-part report of the **Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture** is released, detailing how rampant corruption under former President **Jacob Zuma** undermined both public logistics company **Transnet** and state arms firm **Denel** and how members of the **Gupta** family secured irregular contracts worth up to \$2.7 billion;

31 Jan 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Business Day*. President **Cyril Ramaphosa's** cabinet announces updated level 1 lockdown rules, no longer requiring those who test positive for **Covid-19** without symptoms to isolate and reducing the isolation period;

30 Jan 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Bloomberg*. A judgment distributed by **High Court** shows a key obstacle to an emergency programme to supply 2,000 megawatts of power to the national grid has been removed with the dismissal of a legal challenge to the process by a losing bidder;

28 Jan 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Business Tech*. Several countries and airlines announce that they have eased travel restrictions for South Africa as governments look to shift towards the endemic phase of the **Covid-19** pandemic;

27 Jan 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Bloomberg*. President **Cyril Ramaphosa's** top advisors, the **Presidential Economic Advisory Council**, tell him to cut bureaucracy and focus on fixing the country's energy crisis if he wants to revive the economy;

27 Jan 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Business Day*. **South Africa-based** solar company backed by a group part-owned by billionaire **Patrice Motsepe's African Rainbow Capital Investments, Sun Exchange**, says it plans to expand to other countries on the continent;

27 Jan 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Business Tech*. **South African Reserve Bank's** Monetary Policy Committee raises repo rate to 4% per annum;

27 Jan 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Eskom*. State-owned electricity group **Eskom** warns that its use of the country's diesel-fuelled open cycle gas turbines (OCGTs) is set to remain elevated in the coming months as the utility seeks to avoid load-shedding in a context of rising planned maintenance and the ongoing risk of unplanned breakdowns;

25 Jan 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Engineering News*. The **Special Investigating Unit (SIU)** reports that 62% of 5,476 contracts for the procurement of goods and services by government during the Covid-19 pandemic were irregularly awarded, and that it has made 386 referrals to the **National Prosecuting Authority** and recommended 224 disciplinary actions against officials in government departments or entities;

25 Jan 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Engineering News*. **Transparency International's 2021 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** reveals that South Africa, along with many other

countries in the world, has reached a virtual standstill in its efforts to curb corruption, ranking 70 out of 180 countries.

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