

- ANC secretary-general Gwede Mantashe says the ruling party will not reverse its decision to appoint Thoko Didiza as a mayoral candidate for Tshwane and that the violent protests in Tshwane were not necessarily related to the appointment of Ms Didiza. Given the sharp division between factions supporting the current mayor and the party's regional chairperson, Kgosietso Ramokgopa, and his deputy, Mapiti Matsena, as mayoral candidates, the ANC intervened by appointing Ms Didiza to avoid contestation between the factions. When Ms Didiza's appointment was made public on Monday, mobs ransacked, looted and torched businesses and buses and trucks, and barricaded arterial roads in Pretoria. Five people have been killed.
- As the City of Tshwane experienced days of wild mob riots, the SABC's news coverage of the protests has been lacking. On Monday at least 20 buses were torched in Tshwane and on Tuesday violence continued with police reinforcements called in to establish calm in Mamelodi, Atteridgeville, Garunkuwa and Hamman-skraal. No footage of violent scenes was shown on SABC News, but it did report on the protests unfolding in the capital. In May, the SABC's chief operating officer, Hlaudi Motsoeneng, said the public broadcaster would no longer air footage of violent protests to discourage the destruction of property.
- Outgoing Public Protector Thuli Madonsela said in a newspaper interview this week that public servants at all levels continue to loot municipalities, provinces and national government. Ms Madonsela said the inequalities experienced by citizens should not be blamed on the legacy of apartheid. While apartheid has contributed greatly from a historical perspective, the reason why people are still without water, electricity and roads is now largely down to maladministration and the misjudgement of priorities by government.
- The auditor-general will investigate the alleged unlawful sale of fuel stocks for the 2015-2016 financial year, the DA said. This comes after allegations that Energy Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson and Central Energy Fund CEO Sibusiso Gumede colluded without permission from the Treasury to sell R5bn worth of fuel reserves. The official opposition said it welcomed the investigation.
- The Information and Communication Union of South Africa will march on the Department of Labour in Pretoria on Monday to demand an end to outsourcing and the nationalisation of the South African Post Office (Sapo). The union said it understood that retrenchments were in the offing but Sapo denied this, saying only voluntary severance and early retirement would be considered.
- Civil society groups have urged Parliament's ad hoc committee, set up to appoint a new public protector, to give the public more time to comment on the nominated candidates. Ad hoc committee chairwoman Makhosi Khoza said the committee would not allow an extension beyond five days. She said that nominations would close on Friday (today) and that, if candidates consent to their details being made public in the verification process, nothing would be censored. Adv Thuli Madonsela and her deputy, Kevin Malunga, were also nominated.
- Labour issues accounted for almost half of all public protests between 1997 and 2013, while disorderly protests have risen, the University of Johannesburg (UJ) has shown. Research by UJ's Social Change Research Unit reaffirmed that SA has one of the highest global incidences of labour instability. Analysts said the protests point to a broader wish for economic inclusion and growth, as opposed to policy tinkering.
- The traditionally Afrikaans Stellenbosch University is set to adopt a revised language policy, which will effectively give English and Afrikaans equal status. On Wednesday, the university council approved the proposed new language policy with the amendments.
- General Motors has adjusted output levels at its SA assembly operations and is considering voluntary job cuts as the automaker prepares for a further drop in local new-vehicle sales. The local units of automakers including Ford Motors and Volkswagen start wage negotiations this week, hoping to avoid strikes.
- The composite leading business cycle indicator fell to 90.9 points in April (March: 91.7 points), the South African Reserve Bank reported. This raises the fear of recession and may prompt the Reserve Bank to keep interest rate increases on hold. The weakness of the index ties in with low business confidence in SA.
- Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, decelerated to 6.1% in May from 6.2% in April, surprising economists who had expected it to rise to about 6.3%. This will probably prompt the Reserve Bank's monetary policy committee to hold its repo rate at 7% on July 21.
- Individual taxpayers should ensure they have collected all the documentation necessary to file their annual tax returns. Filing season begins on July 1. Provisional taxpayers have until January next year. **End**