

[Print this page \(#\)](#)

Pretoria mass protests to go ahead, despite dropping of Gordhan charges

Nov 1, 2016 | TMC Digital

If National Director of Public Prosecutions Shaun Abrahams was hoping his decision to withdraw charges against Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan would stave off mass protests planned for Wednesday, he's in for a bitter disappointment.



In the case of the EFF, Abrahams' u-turn may even have helped bump him up to centre stage in proceedings, with a demand for his resignation now one of three points listed as "burning issues" for its #DayofAction march. File photo
 Photograph by: Galló-Images / Beeld / Lisa Hnatowicz

While the South African Communist Party announced on Monday that it had cancelled a picket planned for Pretoria on the day Gordhan was due to appear in the city's magistrate court, the Economic Freedom Fighters and business groups have vowed to go ahead with their protest actions.

In the case of the EFF, Abrahams' u-turn may even have helped bump him up to centre stage in proceedings, with a demand for his resignation now one of three points listed as "burning issues" for its #DayofAction march.

The other two are that free tertiary education be given the urgent attention it deserves and that President Jacob Zuma resigns for failing to uphold his oath of office.

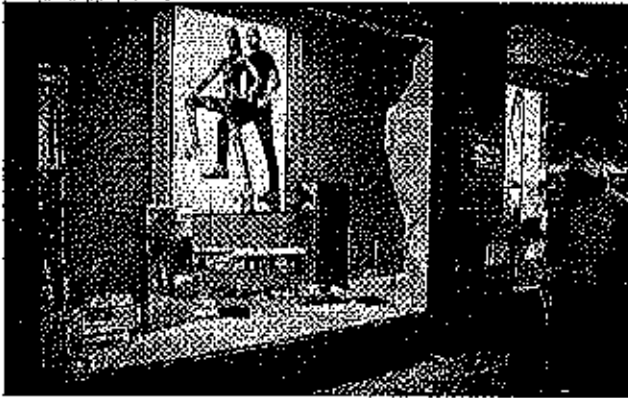
"These demands are in no way affected by Shaun Abrahams' spurious decision to withdraw the charges against Gordhan. In fact, this decision has further emphasized the need for this incompetent head of the NPA to step down," a statement from the party said.

Business Unity South Africa, Business Leadership South Africa and the CEO Initiative are also going ahead with their combined activities planned for Wednesday, saying it was their "collective duty and paramount responsibility as citizens" to protect state institutions and "fight to maintain our investment grade rating".

"The decision to drop charges will therefore not alter the decision of business leaders and organised business to be in Pretoria on Wednesday... for a historic event: the first time in the 22-year history of our democracy that civil society, faith-based organisations, labour, business and thousands of citizens will join together to express what we stand for and what binds us together; namely the belief in our Constitution and a future for our society that it envisages."

TSHWANE BUSINESS OWNERS LEFT REELING AFTER LOOTERS STRIKE DURING EFF MARCH

A business owner says the demonstrators broke into his bar, threatened staff and assaulted customers during an EFF march in Pretoria yesterday.



A Snitz shop in Pretoria's CBD after being looted during an EFF march. Picture: Thomas Holder/EWN

[Jacob Zuma](http://ewn.co.za/Topic/Jacob-Zuma) (<http://ewn.co.za/Topic/Jacob-Zuma>) [Economic Freedom Fighters](http://ewn.co.za/Topic/Economic-Freedom-Fighters) (<http://ewn.co.za/Topic/Economic-Freedom-Fighters>) [Victor Magwede](http://ewn.co.za/Topic/Victor-Magwede) (<http://ewn.co.za/Topic/Victor-Magwede>) & [Commentary](http://ewn.co.za/Contributors/Commentary/16-days-ago) (<http://ewn.co.za/Contributors/Commentary/16-days-ago>) | 6 days ago (6 days ago)

JOHANNESBURG - After a day of clashes between police and [Economic Freedom Fighters](http://ewn.co.za/Topic/Economic-Freedom-Fighters) (EFF) supporters in the Pretoria CBD, business owners say nothing can justify the looting by some members of the red berets yesterday.

EFF leader [Julius Malema](http://ewn.co.za/Topic/Julius-Malema) (<http://ewn.co.za/Topic/Julius-Malema>) led a march through the capital.

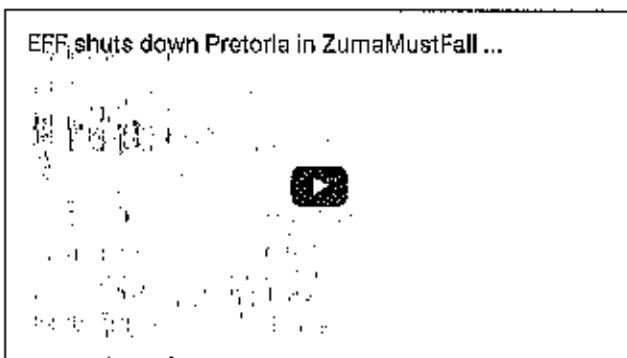
Shop owners claim his supporters damaged property and stole stock.

One business owner says the demonstrators broke into his bar, threatened staff and assaulted customers.

"They also set the place alight in two places, which we luckily managed to extinguish. We were thrown with bottles; I have a cut on my arm. My father was hurt and some of the other staff were hurt. Whenever you try to see whether the masses have passed, they throw stones again."

EFF supporters also clashed with police, who used stun grenades, rubber bullets and water cannons - to disperse the supporters after they apparently tried to force their way onto the lawns of the Union Buildings.

WATCH: EFF Shuts down Pretoria in #ZumaMustFall march



There were chaotic scenes outside the seat of government as EFF supporters wanted to access what they called "their property".



After being denied access, Malema then addressed supporters on the State of Capture report. (<http://cwn.co.za/2016/11/02/must-read-the-full-state-capture-report/>)

"She (Thuli Madonsela) makes points about (Des) van Rooyen, she makes points about (Mosebenzi) Zwane and she makes points about Eskom. The evidence that she came across is very worrying evidence.

Malema says the report is also clear that Zuma is deep into the pockets of the Gupta family.

The EFF has vowed to return to the Union Buildings in another protest for Zuma to leave office.

(Edited by Masechaba Sefularo)

COPYRIGHT 2015 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED | TERMS & CONDITIONS (TERMSANDCONDITIONS)





Final call for Investing in the Future Awards 2016
 Entries close 28 October 2016
 To find out more click here



NATIONAL (http://mg.co.za/section/news-national)

Nhlanhla Nene removed as finance minister

Matuma Letsoalo (http://mg.co.za/author/matuma-letsoalo-author) 09 Dec 2015 22:45



Nhlanhla Nene, (David Harrison, M&G)

(http://mg.co.za/article/2015-12-09-nhlanhla-nene-removed-as-finance-minister)

President Jacob Zuma took an unprecedented step on Wednesday night by dismissing Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene – barely two years after he took office.

In a shocking move that saw the rand plummeting to below R15 to the US dollar, Zuma appointed a relatively unknown backbencher David 'Des' van Rooyen – who served as a member of the finance committee in Parliament – to replace Nene. Nene has been at loggerheads with SAA chair Dudu Myeni – who serves as the chairperson of the president Jacob Zuma's education trust.

Tensions between Nene and Myeni worsened last week after Nene turned down a proposal from the SAA board to restructure a re-fleeting transaction with Airbus. Nene reportedly gave a stern warning that should the board proceed without his permission, it would constitute financial misconduct with consequences for the directors. The treasury said in a statement last week that the board's proposal to restructure the deal would leave the SAA in a materially "worse off financial position where it is unable to meet commitments as they become due".

Nene is not the first minister to bite the dust after clashing with Myeni. Malusi Gigaba was moved from the public enterprises portfolio to home affairs after he fought with Myeni, and SAA was taken away from the current minister Lynne Brown to the treasury after Brown clashed with Myeni.

DA leader Mmusi Maimane said Zuma's decision would have a negative impact on the economy.

"Nene fought for the fiscal discipline. The implication of this on the economy is that South Africa is now seen [by investors] as unstable. Former minister Trevor Manuel served for two terms. For Zuma to fire Nene after a just over a year is a clear indication of instability within his administration. This will have huge implications for job creation. It is very irresponsible," said Maimane.

Maimane said Nene's sin was to refuse to toe Zuma's line by providing funds to the nuclear deal and the president's private jet – a price tag estimated to be R4-billion.

"He [Zuma] needs someone who can toe the line at the expense of South Africans. He believes he comes first, before the people of South Africa. Even the ANC, in this case, is becoming second," said Maimane.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) said Nene was fired because he refused to take "illegal instructions" made by Zuma and his friends in both business and state-owned enterprises.

EFF spokesperson Mbuyiseni Ndlozi said: "Nene refused to give SAA guarantees and bailout when Zuma's girlfriend and chairperson of the board requested it. Nene also refused to buy Zuma a new luxurious private jet and declined to grant Zuma's staff exemptions from using expensive hotels and flying first class. Above all, Nhlanhla Nene was reluctant to approve the country's new nuclear deal which Zuma wanted expedited so he can benefit before his term as president ends. There can be no more shocking news coming out of South Africa to signify that we are a country in crisis, with no knowledge of what tomorrow holds.

"We have always warned that with Zuma you must either be corrupt or you fall out of favour with him. No one in the world will trust a political leadership that changes Cabinet and finance ministers like underwear. A decision to change a person that presides over the treasury of the country must come with substance, be predictable and not come as a shock. If so, we all doubt what is being intended with the taxes of the people," Ndlozi said.

Cope spokesperson Dennis Bloem described the decision to fire Nene as the "worst card" ever played by the president.

"Ideally, it is President Zuma who should have been axed by the ruling party. His exit would end the national drift and the policy paralysis that is crippling the economy. He stands between South Africa and economic growth. He has certainly overstayed his welcome and it is he who should go," said Bloem. He said the axing of Nene would make the jittery market even more dubious about South Africa's prospects of shifting economic gears and holding spending.

"Whatever the reason, Zuma has played his worst card ever. If South Africans were blasé up to now, they should wake up to the fact that our government and our economy are in the very worst of hands. Nene must have been under immense pressure not to apply the fiscal brakes," said Bloem.

The ANC said in a statement on Wednesday night that it noted and respected Zuma's decision to appoint a new finance minister – Van Rooyen – to replace Nene.

"The president has exercised his constitutional prerogative to appoint a new minister who we believe has what it takes to lead the ministry," said ANC spokesperson Zizi Kodwa.

"We believe his experience and tenure as the ANC National Assembly whip for both the finance portfolio committee and the ANC Caucus' Economic Transformation Cluster will enable him to provide the necessary leadership in the department. We wish the new minister well in his responsibilities. The former minister remains a valuable resource in the organisation and we accordingly commend him for the excellent service he rendered to the department and the people of South Africa."

ANC head of economic transformation Enoch Godongwana said the decision to remove ministers were the prerogative of the president. He said he knew Van Rooyen when he served as a mayor of the Merafong Municipality. "He [Van Rooyen] left for Parliament where he served as a whip of in the economic transformation cluster and the standing committee on finance. Because of that, he attended ETC [economic transformation committee] meetings of the ANC," said Godongwana.

The South African Transport and Allied Workers Union [Satawu], which has defended Myeni throughout, last week called on Zuma to take action against those who were against her.

"SAA has moved from one crisis to another under Public Enterprises Minister Lynne Brown and Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene. It's time President Jacob Zuma brought this state-owned entity under his fold."

Last week, SAA chair Dudu Myeni confirmed that the Hawks were investigating the airline's financial affairs. It now appears the investigation will go beyond SAA's finances and probe a plot to sabotage the national carrier.

News of the plot came to light on Friday, when SAA Pilots Association head Captain John Harty was summoned to Douglasdale police station for questioning by several members of the Hawks.

Harty was questioned about his alleged involvement in recruiting technicians to interfere with the functioning of an aircraft rudder of a craft flown by a black pilot. Harty was quizzed about his understanding of treason, because if successfully carried out, such a plot would result in the loss of hundreds of passenger lives. "In light of this, Satawu calls for the immediate suspension of Captain Harty as the allegations put to him are serious and tantamount to treason," the union said in a statement.

Our partnership with Wilderness Safaris is proof of our commitment to Africa's growth. **Find out more.**

Standard Bank
 Also trading on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange
 Moving Forward

South Africa

Zuma 'removes' Nene as finance minister

Replacement Des van Rooyen is an ANC veteran.

Ryk van Niekirk / 9 December 2015 20:42



Nhlamhla Nene

President Jacob Zuma's surprise 'removal' of highly respected Nhlamhla Nene as the Minister of Finance has shocked economic analysts and sent the rand plummeting to record lows against the major international currencies.

Zuma issued a statement on Wednesday night in which he announced that ANC veteran Des van Rooyen would take the reins from Nene as the new head of Treasury.

The shock of the message was clearly visible in the sharp drop in the exchange rate. On Thursday morning the rand traded at R15.88 against the dollar, R16.58 against the euro and R22.86 against the pound. The JSE opened lower, but quickly recovered to trade 0.34% higher at 9:45am.

In his statement Zuma said: "I have decided to remove Mr Nhlamhla Nene as Minister of Finance, ahead of his deployment to another strategic position. Mr Nene has done well since his appointment as Minister of Finance during a difficult economic climate."

Zuma did not announce which portfolio Nene would be redeployed to. The South African president also did not give any reasons for Nene's removal.

This turn of events follows a highly controversial announcement by the National Treasury to reject proposed changes to the deal it had negotiated between national carrier SAA and aircraft manufacturer Airbus last week.

SAA chairperson Dudu Myeni, a close ally of Zuma, proposed the changes to the deal and Nene said in his explanation of the rejection that it would leave the already beleaguered SAA in a worse financial position.

Nene's removal also follows last week's credit rating downgrade by ratings agency Fitch.

Reaction

Several South African political commentators and economists reacted in shock to the announcement.

Roelof Botha, economist and faculty member of the Glba Business School, said: "The one portfolio where a company requires stability, consistency and the highest standards of corporate governance is National Treasury."

He said Zuma's decision to remove Nene will impact credit ratings, the exchange rate, investor sentiment and bond yields, which will impact on fiscal stability. "To remove a Minister of Finance without any obvious good reason is a point of grave concern and International investors will certainly frown on this decision."

Goolam Ballim, chief economist at Standard Bank, said government "will have to give a sound explanation why the decision was taken to remove a pragmatic finance minister at a time when South Africa is probably at its lowest in 20 years in terms of credible policy making."

He said that both the National Treasury and the Reserve Bank are credible national pillars of South Africa's broad institutional breath. "The unceremonious removal of Nene therefore challenges the general underpinnings of South Africa's policy-making foundations."

Des van Rooyen

David Douglas Des van Rooyen, who takes the reins from Nene, is an ANC veteran. According to several websites he was an MK operative and held various leadership positions in Congress of South African Students, the United Democratic Front and the National Union of Mineworkers. Between 1994 and 2007 he held various leadership positions within the ANC.

According to the People's Assembly website, Van Rooyen holds a Masters Degree in Public Development and Management and a MSc Finance (Economic Policy) from the University of London.

Zuma said in his statement that Van Rooyen currently serves as a Whip of the Standing Committee on Finance and Whip of the Economic Transformation Cluster.

He is a former Executive Mayor of Merapong Municipality and a former North West provincial chairperson of the South African Local Government Association.

Twitter erupted with the news.



Ray Mahlaka
@RayMahlaka

Follow

After all, there are about three years until Zuma's presidential term ends. I guess another round of looting continues. #Nene
1:21 PM - 10 Dec 2015



Ranjen Munusamy
@RanjenM

Follow

We gonna be needing a #16DaysOfActivism campaign to save the Rand... Or 16 years to save the country
twitter.com/brucebusiness/...
7:24 AM - 10 Dec 2015



Jacaranda News
@JacaNews

Follow

(Vav) says #Nene was purged for being honest and not corruptible. STM
12:23 PM - 10 Dec 2015



Dr. E.B MALAPANE
@falling_fly2

Follow

In the next 5 years from now RSA=Zimbabwe. #ZumaMustFall #Nene
12:28 PM - 10 Dec 2015

- Home (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/>)
- Sections
 - Wired World (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/section/wired-world/>)
 - South Africa (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/section/south-africa/>)
 - Africa (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/section/africa/>)
 - World (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/section/world/>)
 - Business (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/section/business/>)
 - Life, Etc (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/section/life-etc/>)
 - Sport (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/section/sport/>)
- Opinion/Stats (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinion/stats/>)
- Special Features
 - Coughing Up For Gold (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/specialarticle/2014-03-14-coughing-up-for-gold/>)
 - Until Julius Comes (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/specialarticle/2014-07-22-until-julius-comes/>)
 - Brain Porn (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/specialarticle/2014-10-07-brain-porn-best-of-daily-maverick/>)
 - Daily Maverick Podcasts (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/specialarticle/2016-05-30-daily-maverick-podcasts/>)
- Podcasts (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/specialarticle/2016-05-30-daily-maverick-podcasts/>)
- Newsletter (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/page/subscribe-to-first-thing/>)
- Search (?)
- About
 - About Us (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/page/about-us/>)
 - Contact Us (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/page/contact-us/>)

Search

Not entirely omniscient
6 November 2016 20:59 (South Africa)

DAILY MAVERICK

(<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/>)

South Africa

State capture: Did the Guptas offer Treasury's top job to Deputy Minister Jonas?

• Marianne Thamm



Marianne Thamm

- South Africa (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/section/south-africa/>)
- 10 Mar 2016 12:02 (South Africa)



(<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2016-03-10-state-capture-did-the-guptas-offer-treasury-s-top-job-to-deputy-minister-mcebisi-jonas/>)

A report on Wednesday in the globally influential the Financial Times makes the startling allegation that two weeks before President Zuma fired Finance Minister Nhleho Nene in December, the Gupta family met with Deputy Finance Minister, Mcebisi Jonas, at the family's home in Saxonwold, to ask whether he was interested in the job. If true, it presents another piece in a disturbing puzzle of an attempt at state capture. By MARIANNE THAMM.

Just as Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan touched down in London this week on the first leg of his investment roadshow to foreign investors and credit agencies, the influential publication the *Financial Times* dropped a bombshell of a story (<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/abd6e034-0519-11e5-a09b-1f85d0268c9a.html#axzz42CGkYx1a>) highlighting the extent of Gupta family's influence and control of President Jacob Zuma's government.

The story, by Andrew England, makes the startling claim that two weeks before President Jacob Zuma fired Finance Minister Nhleula Nene, replacing him with backbencher David van Rooyen, the family had themselves met with Deputy Minister of Finance, Mcebisi Jonas, and had asked if he was "interested in the Treasury's top post".

It is unlikely that a newspaper of standing, like the FT, would risk publishing the serious allegation if it were not sure of its sources. It would also indicate that the Gupta family has intimate knowledge of the comings and goings of Ministers as well as believing it has the power to chose these Ministers. If true, these serious claims would amount to a scandal which should warrant a demand for the stepping down of President Jacob Zuma who enjoys a perilously close (for South Africa) relationship with the Gupta family.

While the Gupta family denied the claim, it is telling that, when approached by England, the Treasury and the Deputy Minister's office "declined to comment, neither denying nor confirming the existence of the meeting".

A response to a request by the Daily Maverick to the Deputy Minister's office on Wednesday to respond to questions in relation to the *Financial Times* report had not been forthcoming at the time of writing.

If the Gupta family did indeed approach Deputy Minister Jonas – who was also, according to a Daily Maverick source, allegedly offered a financial inducement – he would have been legally obliged, under the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, to report the matter. The FT exposure of the Gupta's alleged request also begs the question whether Nene too had been aware of the approach to his Deputy Minister.

Evidence of an apparent attempt by the Gupta family at capturing the Treasury is mounting, especially considering that Des van Rooyen arrived at Treasury for his four-day stint as Finance Minister with two as then unnamed advisors who turned out to be Gupta associates Mohamed Bobat and Ian Whitley. Director General of Treasury Lungisa Fuzile was reportedly so outraged that he threatened to resign.

The UK-based publication, Africa Confidential, reported that Bobat and Whitley had informed National Treasury officials that they would be able to sign expenditure and other authorisations on behalf of Van Rooyen.

Bobat and Whitley have been shuffled off with Van Rooyen to the Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs where Whitley is now Van Rooyen's Chief of Staff.

Last month Africa Confidential revealed that the Gupta family, who would be the main beneficiaries of a R1 trillion nuclear deal, had influenced President Zuma to appoint Van Rooyen in an attempt to secure uranium contracts for nuclear plants in a similar fashion the family has gone about capturing a coal mine which supplies a portion of the Arnot power station's power needs.

Van Rooyen's appointment as Minister of Finance caused financial chaos and resulted in the tanking of the Rand (which benefitted some) until President Zuma was forced to re-appoint Pravin Gordhan.

In the *Financial Times* piece England writes that under President Zuma's watch "predatory networks of patronage and cronyism are effectively looting the state" and that the phrase "state capture" had become part of the South African lexicon.

"And as scrutiny on their interests and role mounts, the Guptas are increasingly portrayed as a symbol of the malaise afflicting the nation. They have been accused of overstepping the mark in a range of areas, from wielding influence over state officials and appointments, to using their connections to win government contracts. The allegations – none of which is proven – have proliferated amid battles for power inside the faction-plagued ruling African National Congress and the government," he writes.

In the light of all of the above, Gordhan will have a tough job on his roadshow – he will soon head for the US – where he will be meeting with key investors and institutions to amp up South Africa's budget and the way forward in a precarious economic environment as well as convince these investors that South Africa is not a banana republic and indeed "Africa's most industrialised nation".

England points that it is not only opposition parties inside South Africa who have questioned the Gupta's influence on Jacob Zuma's government but also three former chiefs of intelligence – Gibson Njenje, Mo Shaik and Jeff Maqetuka – who all suggested the Guptas should be investigated. All three resigned after facing resistance from then Minister of State Security Siyehonga Cwele.

Ranjani Munusamy, writing in the Daily Maverick (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2013-05-06-the-top-spooks-gupta-warning-which-cost-them-their-jobs/#.VuAfipN96NZ>) in 2013, revealed how Njenje as former NIA chief, Shaik as former head of foreign intelligence and Jeff Maqetuka as former Director General of State Security (all of whom were close to Zuma) all resigned a few months apart in 2011.

"Alarm bells started ringing in the intelligence agencies about the conduct and dealings of the Gupta brothers and Njenje ordered an investigation into the family's inappropriate influence on South Africa's top political leaders and government officials. When Cwele learnt of this, he ordered that the investigation be stopped immediately."

Munusamy wrote that Njenje, backed by the other two DGs, tried to warn that the Guptas behaviour constituted a "threat to national security" and if allowed to continue would compromise the credibility of the state. Cwele refused to listen or investigate whether there was legitimate cause for the investigation.

"This soured relations between Cwele and the DGs, which over the next few months deteriorated to the extent that the minister asked them to leave," wrote Munusamy.

The warnings about the Guptas, she wrote, later came back to haunt the Zuma administration (and South Africa) and now appears to be the toxic gift that keeps on giving.

In April, 2013, the clearly emboldened Gupta family flew a jet filled with family, friends and wedding guests into the National Keypoint, the Waterkloof Air Force Base. A government inquiry later found that the use of the base by the Gupta wedding party had merely been a "national security incident" and concluded that the "activities of some of the persons involved were driven by the undesirable practice of undue influence and abuse of higher office".

In January that year senior ANC officials met to "deal decisively with the threat of state capture" but three years later it is no longer a threat but a reality, even though ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe might be of the view that only certain "individuals" had been captured and not the state.

Since the Guptagate scandal – as the Waterkloof landing has become known – there have been several others, all involving the Gupta family, including appointment of their ally Mosebenzi Zwane as Minister of Mineral Resources, as well his trip accompanying a delegation from the Gupta-owned Tegeta Exploration & Resources to visit Glencore in Switzerland last year in an attempt to negotiate the purchase of Optimum Colliery.

Eskom issued a R2.5 billion penalty to Optimum for delivering sub standard coal resulting in the colliery being placed in business rescue as its operations were no longer financially viable. The mine was bought by Tegeta in December for R2.15 billion. Three weeks before the deal, Duduzane Zuma's Mabongela Investments snapped up 28.5 percent of the deal while the Guptas's Oakbay Investments gobbled up 34.5 percent. Insiders have said that South African mining authorities used the threat of regulatory action to pressure Glencore into the sale. Optimum supplies Eskom's Hendrina plant while Arnot is one of seven "interim suppliers".

<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/file:///Users/brankajpde/Desktop/downloads%2001/JOHANNESBURG%20-%20Eskom%20issues%20bill%20will%20not%20reveal%20any%20potential%20bidders%20looking%20to%20fill%20contracts%20as%20usual%20supply%20to%20Eskom>: The state-owned company will make its final suppliers known at the end of this month and there are bound to be no surprises.

Meanwhile Exxaro Resources, which supplied Eskom with coal for 40 years, has shut down its operations, affecting 1,800 jobs. James Lorimer, DA Shadow Minister of Mineral Resources, has said the contract was ended in favour <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/Eskom/exxaro-coal-fight-with-eskom-hunts-up-20160303> of a new deal with the Gupta-Zuma owned Optimum.

"Eskom ended the contract... in favour of coal to be trucked in from Optimum," he said. "That looks like a duck".

The current SARS Wars saga and the bitter battle between Pravin Gordhan and Commissioner Tom Moyave, a Zuma appointee, also suggests an attempt at capturing the country's revenue service. On 1 March, journalist Max Du Preez revealed in a [column](http://www.news24.com/Columnists/MaxDuPreez/the-sars-dossier-that-could-spell-trouble-for-zuma-and-friends-20160301) <http://www.news24.com/Columnists/MaxDuPreez/the-sars-dossier-that-could-spell-trouble-for-zuma-and-friends-20160301> that one of the keys to the hostility between the two men is a secret dossier that contains "dynamite allegations of corruption, fraud, front companies and foreign bank accounts against prominent benefactors of President Jacob Zuma".

"Several billions of rands are at stake and Zuma would be extremely embarrassed if the alleged dossier were to be acted upon. It could well open him up to prosecution himself and/or to a massive income tax bill – at least for evading donations tax," wrote Du Preez.

The revelations in the *Financial Times* on Wednesday and the allegation that the Guptas offered the Treasury to Jonas present a new, disturbing piece in a dark puzzle. Taken together, the political domination of the NPA, SAPS, Hawks and State Security, as well as the SARS affair, coupled with the shockingly wrong appointments of Zwane as Minister of Mineral Resources and van Rooyen as Finance Minister, it all now begins to make sinister sense.

The only man who could really get decisively in cleaning up the mess is the man who, through his friendship and family connections, is deeply implicated in it all. President Jacob Zuma is hardly likely to want the truth revealed.

But the President does not exist in a vacuum. He is part of the ANC, the oldest liberation movement in Africa. The party has survived 104 years in the most adverse of conditions but never before has it faced such a critical challenge. Is the ANC up to this grave challenge of fixing a mess that could possibly shake the foundations of the South African state and society?

Breaking his silence with regard to the SARS "rogue unit" saga earlier this month Gordhan hinted at the source of the malaise that England says afflicts the nation: "There is a group of people that are not interested in the economic stability of this country and the welfare of its people. It seems they are interested in disrupting institutions and destroying reputations."

As more information bubbles to the surface in this toxic mess, it appears that Gordhan is a well informed man. **DM**

Photo: President Jacob Zuma, Ahil Gupta (Reuters, Sapa)

• Marianne Thamm



Marianne Thamm

South Africa (<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/section/south-africa/>)

Get overnight news and latest Daily Maverick articles

Email Address

First Thing (Mon - Sun 06:15, SAST)

Afternoon Thing (Mon - Fri 15:00, SAST)

Info Thing (Special Events/Notices/Others)

Do Not Miss

This isn't about trust. This is about freedom.



MR. ROBOT show wax
SIGN UP NOW

fin24

Search by company name or news keyword Search



Zuma-Gordhan struggle
Latest bombshells show the president in an increasingly vulnerable light.



SA's three-headed snake
We can still regain the moral high ground despite bad election choices, says Solly Mosenk.



Act for justice, SAI
Hunger, joblessness and a corrupt government are a dangerous mix, says Mendi Smallame.

Home Companies Markets Economy Tech Money Entrepreneurs Opinion BizNews Finance

Delisted and Acquired by INET BFA	ZAR/AUD 10,63 ↑ (0.55%)	ZAR/EUR 15,22 ↓ (-0.33%)	ZAR/GBP 17,04 ↓ (-0.37%)	ZAR/JPY 0,13 ↓ (0.00%)	ZAR/USD 13,93 ↓ (-0.62%)	All data is delayed
--	----------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------

Zuma wants Gordhan's head - economist

May 16 2016 21:30

Cape Town - President Jacob Zuma is hunting for any route to remove Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, which should be hard but not impossible, said Nomura emerging markets economist Peter Attard Montalto.

He said the ongoing battle between the tenderpreneur and anti-tenderpreneur camps stepped up significantly over the weekend with the news of Gordhan's "imminent arrest" over his apparent involvement in the SA Revenue Service's (Sars's) "rogue unit".

READ MORE:

Zuma factor stymies Gordhan's bid to rescue SA economy

Impact of Gordhan 'arrest' will be 'swift, awful'

Gordhan 'ready to do battle'

Political turmoil hits rand

"We think the market is still grossly underestimating political risk premium and President Zuma's present position and power - he is not a lame duck and may discount market turbulence," said Montalto.

The Sunday Times reported that Gordhan faces "imminent arrest" after the Hawks allegedly handed a docket over to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). Former finance minister Trevor Manuel and former Sars commissioner Ivan Pillay were also implicated.

Montalto said charges would likely claim that there were covert operations at Sars for political purposes to aid former president Thabo Mbeki.

The presidency dismissed the report, saying it was clearly the "work of dangerous information peddlers who wish to cause confusion and mayhem in the country", while the NPA denied receipt of the docket.

"As far as the so-called rogue unit matter is concerned, which is (being) investigated by the Hawks, our prosecutors are actually guiding that investigation," NPA spokesperson Luvuyo Mfaku told News24 on Sunday.

The Presidency also denied any imminent Cabinet reshuffle.

"However, it is assumed that any arrests should take place after the 3 August local elections so as not to disrupt ANC chances then," said Montalto.

He said the news is not a total surprise. "The ongoing conflict between the tenderpreneur camp




- MOST READ** | **EDITOR'S CHOICE**
- Zuma's 'most qualified' firm had help with assignments - report
 - Gordhan: SA will be foolish not to avoid possible car crash
 - Appeal stalls clawback of R42bn by Eskom from customers
 - Nomura concerned Zuma will use 'scorched earth' strategy
 - Two options for funding higher education in SA

COMPANY SNAPSHOT

- RELATED ARTICLES**
- Rand declines on fears Gordhan may be arrested
 - Impact of Gordhan 'arrest' will be 'swift, awful'
 - Gordhan 'ready to do battle'
 - Gordhan 'arrest' will cause economic earthquake - DA
 - Gordhan moves to reassure Fitch, S&P on SA economy
 - Treasury making it harder to evade tax - Gordhan

BIG 24 OFFICE SALE
20 OCTOBER 2016



Great deals on selected Office Furniture, Stationery, Multimedia and more!

makro

OUT | **R265** | **R279** | **R206**

NEWS24 | DLX | PROPERTY24 | CAREERS24 | SPIRES :

"On the nuclear issue, the whole procurement process is still being blocked by the lack of sign-off from Pravin Gordhan and yet government rhetoric maintains that it will proceed."

Montalto pointed out that Zuma had to reluctantly reappoint Gordhan in December last year after former finance minister Nhleho Nene refused to take the job back and given the lack of other obvious candidates.

Zuma unceremoniously removed Nene of his post and replaced him with unknown ANC MP Des van Rooyen, only to replace the latter four days later amid a financial market rout.

"Given this stalemate, President Zuma is going to have to take a major step forwards to achieve his goals. Pravin Gordhan's strategy so far has been defensive and will have to remain so. For both sides the conflict is existential to different visions of South Africa. Pravin Gordhan has to successfully defend against every attack, President Zuma ultimately has to win only once."

Montalto said a trial of Gordhan would never be successful and probably could never be attempted. He cited four reasons for this.

- Proving that the so called rogue spy unit was undertaking political activities would be nearly impossible;
- Trying to prove that the unit was undertaking illegal covert activity seems to be a challenge given it appears to have been acting within relevant laws.
- The existence of dossiers at Sars, originating from this unit, on Zuma, his family and associates would come up in any trial and be problematic for him and those around him.
- If Zuma were indeed involved in the setting up of the unit and was a witness for the defence in any trial, it would further make such a trial untenable.

However, he added that it may be that a trial never has to happen.

"We believe there is a scenario that Pravin Gordhan and others merely have to be charged (after the local elections) in order for President Zuma to reshuffle the Cabinet and install a new finance minister (and deputy as well most likely).

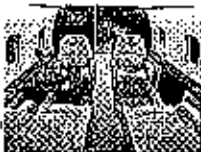
"The charges could then hang in place for some time before being dropped and no trial would ever have to occur. In the interim, whoever takes on the finance minister role would have had time to provide whatever sign-off and project approvals President Zuma may require," Montalto said.

Follow Fin24 on Twitter, Facebook, Google+ and Pinterest. 24.com encourages commentary submitted via MyNews24. Contributions of 200 words or more will be considered for publication.



Read more about: [saa](#) | [jacob zuma](#) | [pravin gordhan](#) | [sa economy](#)

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE



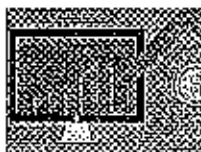
South African Binary Options trader gives us a private tour of his 24 Business News.



Cape Town Teacher makes R4,200 per day! He reveals his Money-Making Strategy - www.realcashguide-sa.com



Sity Goodbye to Bolox - Grandma's R449 Trick Erases Wrinkles Health News Online



Say Goodbye to Your Spreadsheet - It's the Age of the Accounting OnTApp.com

MORE FROM FIN24

Pick n Pay charms its way into the hearts of Zimbabweans

Exploding Note 7 prompts SA consumer body response

WATCH: How Gauteng's cashless minibus taxi fare works

Gupta's 'telega' repaid' propayment loan - Eskom

PROMOTED STORIES

7 reasons why you're crazy to buy Lotto tickets in a shop TheLatter

How Much Old Bacon Cost In Your Birth Year? Consumer Price Index (CPI) - Inflation Calculator and Rates

Dubai Mansions Offer Luxury You Can Only Imagine Mansion Global

How 3 Lottery Winners Blew Their Fortune TheLatter

An expert provides tips for entrepreneurs on how to tackle some of the key business issues that keep them awake at night.

Related links: From selling boiled eggs at this stage, to Entrepreneur of the Year New tech era means equal chance for big and small business

Get the latest with Fin24 Tech



Motor taxis lose bid to declare Uber anti-competitive 2016-10-20 10:50

The Competition Commission has struck down metered taxi drivers' bid to declare internet app Uber as engaging in predatory pricing and anti-competitive behaviour.

Exploding Note 7 prompts SA consumer body response

Note 7 'recall' clocks coming to SA airports

Apple to end Mac update drought with October event

MORE

Tech Home | Multimedia | News

FOLLOW FIN24



MONEY CLINIC

- How to protect your assets in the event of divorce
- Debt-ridden single mom of three seeks advice
- What to do with R5m to spare?
- Investing in the Top-40 bucket
- The workings of debt mediation

Do you have a question about your finances? We'll get an expert opinion.

Click here...

VOTING BOOTH

Do you use all your downloaded apps on your smartphone?

Yes



Trending News Opinion Investing Lifestyle Video Sponsored Shop Forums

It's gone. Update: What was wrong with this ad? Inappropriate Repetitive Irrelevant

Google

Search

Follow biznews.com



LEADERSHIP / September 16, 2016

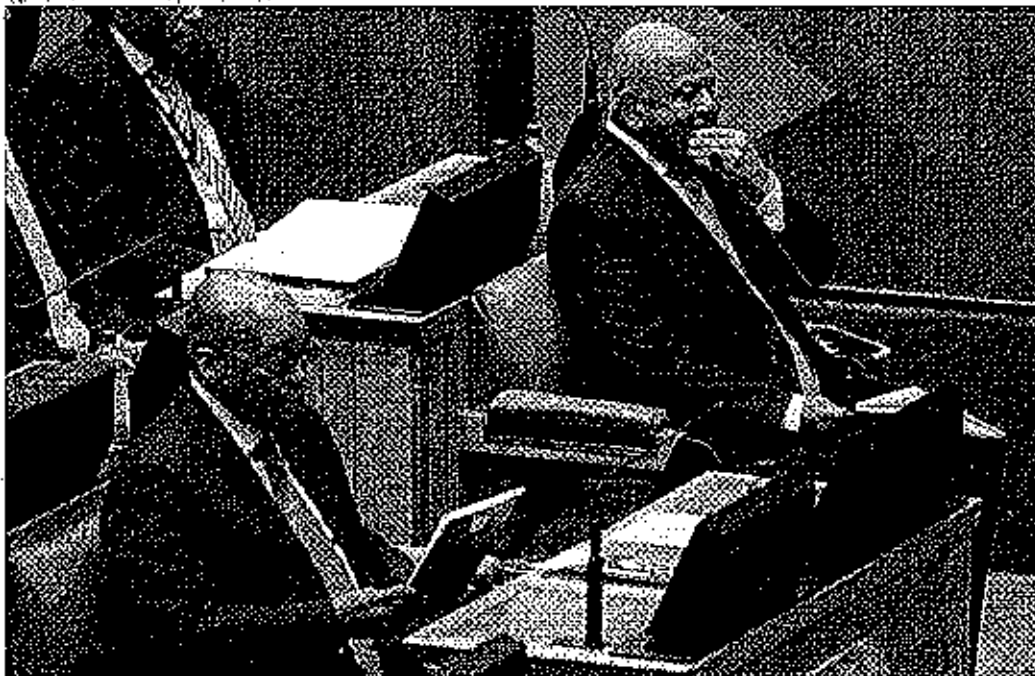
Key battlegrounds: Zuma, Gordhan grapple for control of SA's finances

While President Jacob Zuma says there's no internal war at the ANC, those looking from the outside in are seeing a different picture. The battle is over South Africa's finances and there are some key institutions at play. In the summation from Bloomberg below, the reporters look at six areas in play. - Stuart Lowman

by Mike Cohen and Feri al Haffajee

(Bloomberg) - South Africa's government appears to be at war with itself, as President Jacob Zuma and his Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan grapple for control of the nation's finances.

While Zuma has downplayed the conflict, saying "there is no war within government," he's undermined Gordhan's authority by refusing to back him in stand-offs with the police, national tax agency and loss-making state airline.



Pravin Gordhan, South Africa's finance minister, right, sits beside Jacob Zuma, South Africa's president, left, before delivering his 2016 budget speech to parliament in Cape Town, South Africa, on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2016. Photographer: Halden Krog/Bloomberg

Several government agencies have been drawn into the fight. Here are the key battlegrounds:

The National Treasury

The Treasury's tight rein over state finances has helped South Africa retain an investment-grade credit rating and its national budget is ranked among the world's most transparent. Zuma's decision to appoint little-known lawmaker David van Rooyen as his finance minister in place of the respected Nhlanhla Nene in December raised fears that the Treasury's independence was under threat and sparked a run on the rand and nation's bonds. After business and

GET THE DAILY IF
The Best of Biznews in Your

Email Address

Signup Free

Trending



Billions disappear as "hole in heat staff and pull plu embassies?



Can new Public F save South Africa speech suggests less action



Malena: SA near Zimbabwe-style l expropriation w/ compensation



Revealed: Pravin private meeting CEO Nazeem Ho