PARKER REVIEW

A weekly news summary for SA business professionals: 31 May 2024

DPA

Retail & Business

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- Telkom shareholders have voted in favour of selling company's masts and towers business to Actis-led consortium. (24 May; techcentral.co.za; telkom.co.za)
- Quantum Foods' statements for six months to end March: HEPS up by 651%. (24 May; moneyweb.co.za; Quantum Foods)
- Cape Town International Convention Centre has received top honours at 2024 Eventex Global Awards. (26 May; ewn.co.za; CTICC)
- Fourways Mall in serious financial trouble. Related: Investec now owns 8% of Accelerate, whose main asset is 50% stake in Fourways Mall. (27 May; businesstech.co.za; moneyweb.co.za; fourwaysmall.com)
- Balwin in R133.7 million KZN land deal with Westown developer. (27 May; moneyweb.co.za; balwin.co.za)
- 4Sight Holdings' results for 14 months to end February: HEPS up 153.8%; revenue increased 57.7% to R1.1 billion. (27 May; iol.co.za; 4Sight Holdings)
- Tiger Brands: 11% increase in headline earnings from total operations for six months to end March. (27 May; Tiger Brands)
- Barloworld results for six months to end March: 8% decline in HEPS. (27 May; Barloworld)
- MTN tops Brand Finance *Africa 200 2024* rankings. (27 May; bizcommunity.africa; Brand Finance)
- Exemplar REIT results for year to end February: Rental income and recoveries increased by 17.6%. (27 May; Exemplar REIT)
- Collins Property Group results for year ended February: Profit from continuing operations doubled from R516.9 million in 2023 to R1.21 billion; converts to REIT. (27 May; propertywheel.co.za; Collins)

- Pick n Pay news (27 – 28 May):
  - Ackerman family to give up control of Pick n Pay. Chair Gareth Ackerman to retire next year. (fin24.com; bizcommunity.com; timeslive.co.za; Pick n Pay)
  - Loss after tax of R3.19 billion for 52 weeks to February 25. (businesslive.co.za; Pick n Pay)
  - Has revealed strategy to restore its business, including closing loss-making stores (will shut one in 10 corporate supermarkets). (bizcommunity.com; businesstech.co.za; moneyweb.co.za; Pick n Pay)
  - Progress being made to spin off Boxer brand with own public listing and converting some PnP-branded stores to Boxer stores. (businesstech.co.za; boxer.co.za)

- Pepkor results for six months ended March: Profit from continuing operations declined to R2.77 billion from R2.86 billion a year ago. Sold 5.6 million cellphones in SA in just six months. Accelerating Brazil expansion. (28 May; dailyinvestor.com; dailyinvestor.com; techcentral.co.za; Pepkor)

- Reinet Investments' results for year to end March: Net asset value increased by 8.1% to €6.2 billion. (28 May; Reinet)

- Zara has reopened its newly refurbished store at Gateway Theatre of Shopping. (28 May; bizcommunity.com; gatewayworld.co.za)

- Rabie Property Developers has launched first phase of Park Place in Ratanga Park, Cape Town. (28 May; everythingproperty.co.za; Rabie)

- Capital Connect report: Retailers should prepare for 1.8% uptick in consumer spending in 2024. (28 May; retailbriefafrica.co.za; connected.co.za)

- Woolworths has cheaper iPhones than iStore and Digicape. (28 May; mybroadband.co.za; woolworths.co.za)

- Robertsons Spices celebrating 100 years. (28 May; eatout.co.za; unileverfoodsolutions.co.za)

- MRF MAPS data overview (2021 – 2023): Online clothes shopping 2nd most purchased e-commerce category in SA, with Shein being preferred retailer in sector. Also: Ster-Kinekor is most popular cinema chain among SA's residents. (28 May; mybroadband.co.za; mybroadband.co.za; mrfsa.org.za)

- Stats SA: Total number of liquidations jumped by 14.3% in April 2024 (compared to April 2023). (28 May; businesstech.co.za; Stats SA)
- Vukile canning bid for Capital & Regional. (28 May; moneyweb.co.za; Vukile)
- Spear has completed sale of Liberty Life building to Capitec. (28 May; Spear)
- BHP abandons R900 billion bid after Anglo American refuses more talks. (29 May; fin24.com; Anglo American)
- PwC: Volume of food and beverages sold per capita at grocery stores and supermarkets declined by 3.2% in 2023. (29 May; businesstech.co.za; pwc.co.za)
- Ster-Kinekor CEO: Cinema has bright future in SA. (29 May; mybroadband.co.za; sterkinekor.com)
- Woolworths expecting more than 20% fall in full-year earnings. (30 May; businesstech.co.za; Woolworths)
- Zeda: Profit after tax for six months ended March declined to R315.1 million from R376.7 million a year ago. (30 May; Zeda)
- Masscash celebrating 40 years. (30 May; retailbriefafrica.co.za; Linkedin)
- Delta Property Fund FY2024 results: Profit from operations of R399.2 million. (30 May; propertywheel.co.za; Delta)
- Emira Property Fund FY2024: NAV per share increased by 2.2%. (30 May; propertywheel.co.za; Emira)
- Shoprite opens five stores in one day in Somerset West, including its first standalone Medirite Plus pharmacy. (30 May; retailbriefafrica.co.za; retailbriefafrica.co.za; Shoprite Holdings; Shoprite Holdings)
- Spur Steak Ranches undergoing revamp. (31 May; iol.co.za; spursteakranches.com)
- Dis-Chem results for 12 months to end February: Group's revenue increased by 11.1% to R36.3 billion. (31 May; businesstech.co.za; Dis-Chem)

Financial & Other

- Stats SA General Household Survey: In 2023, estimated 15% of SA's population experienced hunger, while over ¼ of households experienced worryingly complex access to food. (25 May; businesstech.co.za; Stats SA)

- CEF buys Sapref fuel refinery. (25 May; iol.co.za; cefgroup.co.za)

- BusinessTech analysis: Price of unleaded 93 petrol increased by 119% over last four years, with similar increases for unleaded 95 petrol and diesel. (26 May; businesstech.co.za)

- Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index for 2024: Joburg remains SA's economic hub. (26 May; dailyinvestor.com; Oxford Economics)

- Santam has acquired online marketplace Kandua. (27 May; techcentral.co.za; kandua.com)

- Discovery Bank has launched its new home loan product. (27 May; propertywheel.co.za; discovery.co.za)

- BFAP: Food inflation rate in April was 4.7% (while CPI headline inflation was 5.2%). (27 May; engineeringnews.co.za; bfap.co.za)

- Sanlam Private Wealth backing FirstRand. Related: IFC lends FirstRand $250 million for green housing. (27 May; moneyweb.co.za; dailyinvestor.com; sanlamprivatewealth.sanlam.com; firstrand.co.za)

- JP Morgan now owns 8.37% of the Capitec group. (27 May; Capitec)

- Standard Bank partnering with MiDA Advisors and real estate developer Acorn Holdings to mobilise long-term blended finance commitments for green and affordable student housing in Kenya. (27 May; engineeringnews.co.za; standardbank.co.za)

- Bankmed CEO: NHI will take over a decade to implement. Related: Solidarity challenging NHI in court. (28 May; dailyinvestor.com; fin24.com; bankmed.co.za; solidariteit.co.za)

- ASISA quarterly update: Local CIS industry increased assets under management to R3.57 trillion in Q1 2024. (28 May; dailyinvestor.com; asisa.org.za)

- SA Post Office exclusivity on small packages extended. (28 May; mybroadband.co.za; postoffice.co.za)
- Agbiz: SA grew agri exports by 6% to R3.1 billion in Q1. (28 May; iol.co.za; agbiz.co.za)
- CEF data: Petrol expected to decrease by R1 per litre in June, while diesel could decrease between 92c and R1.01 per litre. (28 May; businesstech.co.za; cefgroup.co.za)
- DBSA to set up its first biodiversity fund. (28 May; moneyweb.co.za; dbsa.org)
- RMB: Indo-Africa trade corridor booming, expected to hit $100 billion by 2025. (28 May; iol.co.za; rmb.co.za)
- Informal economy expert GG Alcock: SA's informal economy estimated to be worth +-R750 billion. (28 May; businesstech.co.za; kasinomics.co.za)
- Ramaphosa has signed Cannabis for Private Purpose Bill into law. (29 May; news24.com)
- AutoTrader: SA loses between R5bn and R8bn a year in direct taxes from illegal import of used cars. (30 May; dailyinvestor.co.za; autotrader.co.za)
- It may take R80 billion and 10 years to fix Transnet's core rail network. (30 May; moneyweb.co.za)
- Africanbank Group results for six months to end March: R203 million profit, 38% increase in active customer numbers. (30 May; bizcommunity.com; Africanbank)
- PayShap has recorded 30 million transactions valued at R19.5 billion since its launch. (30 May; mybroadband.co.za; payshap.co.za)
- Stats SA: PPI increased by 0.5% month-on-month in April; y/y increase of 5.1% (4.6% in March). (30 May; businesstech.co.za; Stats SA)
- Old Mutual update for quarter to end March: Double digit sales growth. (30 May; iol.co.za; Old Mutual)

- **Competition Commission grants approval for Prax SA to acquire Natref. Related: Competition Commission has approved Nedbank's sale of its Menlyn Maine property to Zikhethele Tade 4. (30 May; engineeringnews.co.za; businesstech.co.za; compcom.co.za)**

- **SARB news: (27 – 30 May)**
  - **Lack of affordable mobile internet access is major limiting factor to creating cashless society. (mybroadband.co.za; SARB)**
  - **Working on two-factor authentication to ensure safer digital payments in the future. (myboadband.co.za; SARB)**
  - **SARB composite leading business cycle indicator decreased by 1.9% in March compared to February. (moneyweb.co.za; SARB)**
  - **MPC holds repo rate unchanged at 8.25%. (ewn.co.za; SARB)**

- **Eskom / energy-related news: (25 - 31 May)**
  - **Eskom chairperson: End of load shedding near. (mybroadband.co.za; eskom.co.za)**
  - **Eskom has applied to Nersa for review of its tariff structures before opening up SA's electricity market. (mybroadband.co.za; nersa.org.za)**
  - **Eskom looking at possibility of building small nuclear reactors at old power stations. Also: Has rolled out only fifth of microgrids it planned to launch by end of last financial year, but it is substantially increasing capacity of some of the new systems. (mybroadband.co.za; mybroadband.co.za; eskom.co.za)**
  - **Numerous energy experts warning that current load shedding reprieve will not last throughout winter season. (businesstech.co.za)**
  - **BDO: End of load-shedding may come sooner than expected. (mybroadband.co.za; dailyinvestor.com; bdo.co.za)**

- ***Articles of the Week:***
  - ***Free to read: Infrastructure backlog needs public-private partnerships to deliver. (24 May; businesslive.co.za)***
  - ***Tracking SA's changing rural and urban developments. (27 May; bizcommunity.com)***
  - ***How much the price of bread, milk, and eggs increased in SA. (29 May; businesstech.co.za)***
  - ***Takealot moves to the next level – crushing Amazon in SA. (30 May; businesstech.co.za)***

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