

## This week's top stories

Here are the news stories that dominated the headlines this week, compiled by Acumen Media:

- Stocks collapsed on the JSE as oil prices dropped dramatically and the novel coronavirus continues to spread globally. Brands such as Amplats, MTN, Sasol and BHP were affected, and the Rand also took a beating.
- '#EskomIsDead,' the headlines read as tariff hikes were confirmed, and poor Eskom infrastructure led to loadshedding.
- Convicted child rapist Nicholas Ninow was denied leave to appeal his sentence and conviction.
- Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane's CR17 campaign report was set aside.
- In Durban, there were protests about hijacked cars being driven across the border to Mozambique and they are calling on minister Bheki Cele to contain this crime, and in Cape Town, a tavern massacre left seven dead, while seven others including a six-year-old, were wounded.
- The State Capture Inquiry heard that Fikile Mbalula illegally dissolved the Prasa board, and the damning PIC Report was released.
- Vodacom announced it will slash data costs by 30% and provide free access to some websites.
- Coronavirus continued to dominate the headlines as the first cases were confirmed in South Africa. The South African Defense Force has been deployed to the epicentre of the virus, Wuhan, to repatriate South African nationals who were based at the city. News that they will be quarantined in a hotel 25km south of Polokwane caused an uproar on social media.
- Globally, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the virus a pandemic. Italy is currently on lockdown and sports events and large gatherings are cancelled across Europe and the United States.
- Hollywood star Harvey Weinstein was sentenced to 23 years in prison for rape, and in the United Kingdom, a second patient was cured of HIV after a new medication was utilised.

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