



Newsflash

III-5-2025

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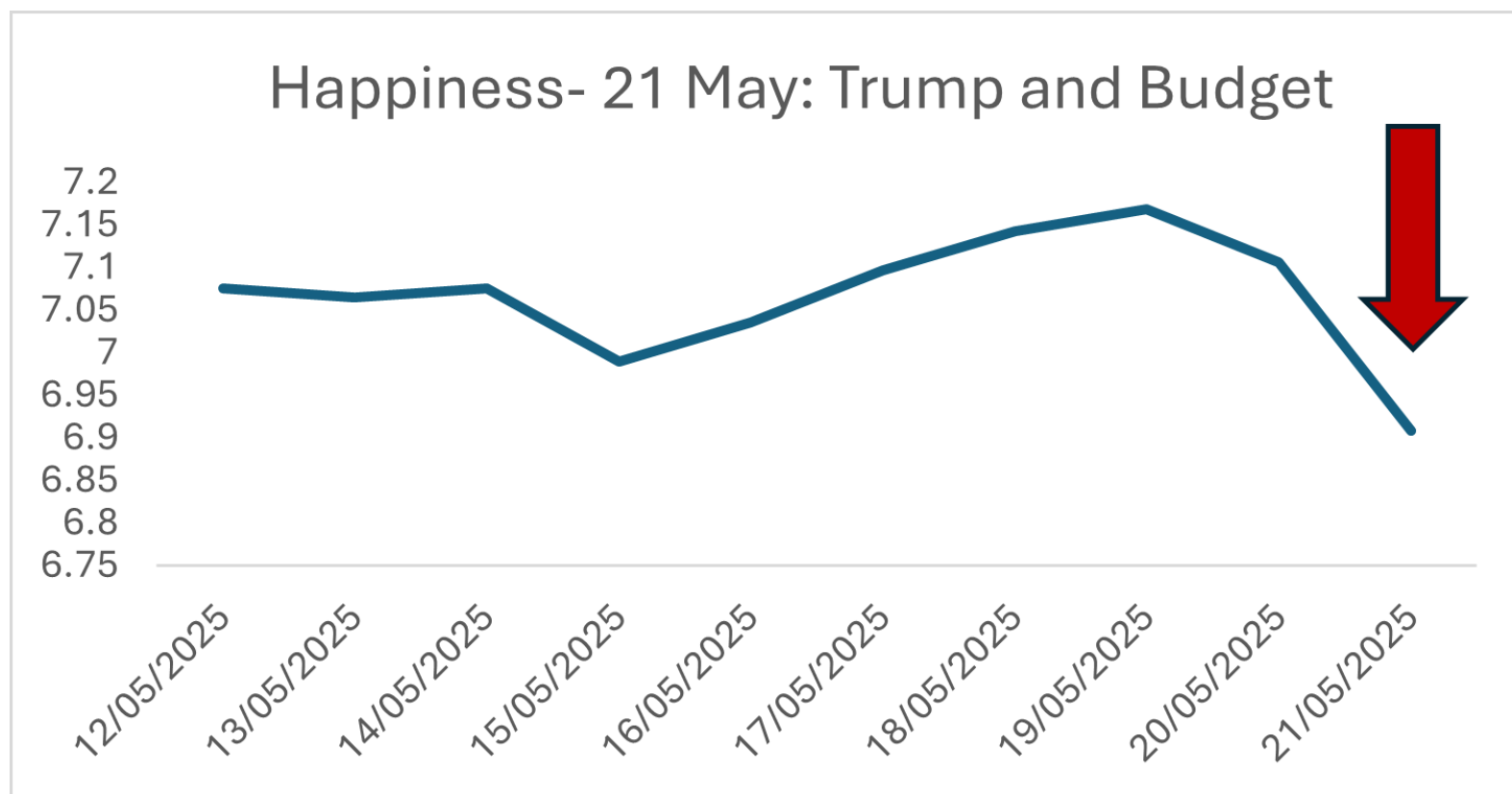
547 School of Economics: SA Happiness Index influenced by budget speech and SA USA Presidency visit.



"21 May": One Day, Two Events – Trump, the Budget, and a Sharp Drop in South Africa's Happiness.

South Africa's happiness took a notable dip on Wednesday, with levels 0.17 points lower than the average for Wednesdays: a significant drop exceeding normal variations (See Figure 1 showing the decrease in happiness indicated with a red arrow). Two key events marked the day: the National Budget Speech and the Trump–Ramaphosa Trade discussions.

Figure: Happiness on 21 May 2025 (Source GNH.today - www.GNH.today)



The National Budget Speech received limited attention. It was a cautious budget within the constraints: no increase in SASA grants and a rise in fuel prices, which may affect household finances.

Trump–Ramaphosa trade discussions dominated headlines but lacked substance. Despite media hype, no evidence of trade deals or concrete outcomes emerged. Prompting many to view the exchange as political theatre rather than substantive diplomacy.

The sharp decrease in the "Happiness Index" reflects public disillusionment with political theatrics, economic stagnation, and limiting hope for economic expansion in the future.

#HappinessGNH #Budget2025 #TrumpRamaphosa #GNHtoday #WellbeingEconomics #HappinessReal #USTradeNegotiations