

Agri SA

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Agri SA sal wyd met die landbousektor beraadslaag oor die voorgestelde Nasionale Minimumloon

Agri SA to consult widely with agricultural sector regarding the proposed National Minimum Wage

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“Agri SA ag die arbeidsmag in die landbousektor as van uiterse belang”, sê Neil Hamman, voorsitter van Agri SA se arbeidsbeleidkomitee. Hy het reageer op die Vise-president se aankondiging van die kwantum van ‘n nasionale minimumloon wat van toepassing is op alle sektore van die ekonomie.

“Terwyl arbeidskoste ‘n belangrike koste-drywer is, is ‘n gelukkige werksmag noodsaaklik vir optimale produksie in die sektor. Verstoring van die delikate balans tussen lone en die volhoubaarheid van boerdery-ondernemings sal egter onbedoelde gevolge hê, soos werksverliese en meganisasie”.

“Gegewe die kwesbaarheid van die sektor, vra Agri SA vir indiepte navorsing en konsultasie met alle landbouroespelers, veral boere in die droogte-geteisterde gebiede, diegene wat strawwe internasionale mededinging in die gesig staar, asook opkomende boere.”

“Agri SA verwelkom die feit dat sukkelende boere steeds toegang sal hê tot artikel 50 van die Wet op Basiese Diensvoorwaardes wat voorsiening maak vir vrystelling van ministeriële vasstellings. Ons verwelkom ook die feit dat die kundige advieskomitee aanbeveel het dat die laer minimumloon toegepas word op huis- en plaaswerkers, afhangend van die omstandighede” sê Hamman.

“Die voorgenome geheime stembrief voordat vakunies begin staak word ook verwelkom. Agri SA verlang aktiewe deelname in die voorgestelde *Decent Work Commission* wat verantwoordelik sal wees vir minimumlone, asook diensvoorwaardes en gelyke indiensneming”.

“Agri SA bly egter bekommerd oor die impak op indiensneming en winsgewendheid van die landbousektor en versoek dus dat die regering en die besigheidsektor saamwerk om ‘n gunstige besigheidsomgewing te skep waar besighede en veral landbou-ondernemings kan gedy. Suid-Afrika se eerste prioriteit moet wees om meer besighede te skep en hoër produktiwiteit en mededingendheid te verseker”.

Uitgereik deur Agri SA, Direktoraat: Korporatiewe Skakeling

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Agri SA to consult widely with agricultural sector regarding the proposed National Minimum Wage

“Agri SA considers the labour force in the agricultural sector of critical importance” says Neil Hamman, chairperson of Agri SA's labour policy committee. He responded in reaction to the Deputy President's announcement of the quantum of a national minimum wage (NMW) applicable on all sectors of the economy.

“Whilst labour cost is a major cost driver, a contented labour force is equally essential for optimum production in the sector. Compromising the intricate balance between wages and the sustainability of farming enterprises will however result in unintended consequences such as job losses and mechanization. ”

“Given the vulnerability of the sector, Agri SA is calling for in-depth research and consultation with all agricultural role-players especially farmers in drought stricken areas, those who face stiff international competition as well as emerging farmers.”

“Agri SA welcomes the fact that struggling farmers still will have access to section 50 of the BCEA that makes provision for exemptions from ministerial determinations. We also welcome that the fact that the expert advisory committee recommended that lower mean apply to domestic and farm workers, depending on the circumstances”, Hamman added.

“The proposed secret ballot before registered unions embark on a strike is also welcomed. Agri SA also seeks active participation in the proposed Decent Work Commission which will be responsible for minimum wages as well as employment conditions and employment equity.”

“Agri SA remains however concerned about the impact on employment and profitability of the agricultural sector and therefore ask that government and the business sector should work together to create a conducive business environment in which businesses and agricultural enterprises in particular can flourish. Creating more businesses and ensuring higher productivity and competitiveness should be South Africa's first priority.’

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