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SADSAWU

South African Domestic Service & Allied Workers Union



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8 June 2015

Ms LE Yengeni
Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Labour
Parliament of South Africa

Dear Madam

Re: Two-Day Workshop on National Minimum Wage: 23 - 204 June 2015

Please receive correspondence from our offices confirming receipt of your invitation to attend the Two-day Workshop on National Minimum Wage on 23 and 24 June 2015.

SADSAWU accepts the invitation and advises that the following delegates will be in attendance:

Myrtle Witbooi - General Secretary
Hester Stephens - President
Gladys Mnyengeza - Treasurer

SADSAWU will be making a presentation to the Committee and the key points are added as an addendum to this letter.

Yours Faithfully

Ms Myrtle Witbooi
GENERAL SECRETARY

A National Minimum Wage for All

SADSAWU Is The Union For Domestic Workers In South Africa.

Introduction:

Since the beginning of slavery, domestic work has been the worst form of exploitation of mainly women. Workers were controlled by the "Master and Servants Act" that rendered these workers powerless and with no voice.

After many consultations, discussions and submissions, in the year 2002 a new minimum wage was set for the domestic work sector. Although this wage was very low we had to take into consideration that domestic workers was already earning a very low salary, so we had to take it in stages,

Salary:

Today domestic workers receive a salary of about R2067.00 per month which still does not enable them to live a decent life:

An example of basic expenses are:

Housing	-	R1000.00
Electricity	-	R300.00
School fees	-	R350.00
Food	-	R1500.00 (Just basics)
Clothing	-	R500.00
Travelling to work	-	R500.00
Travelling for children/school	-	R300.00
Medical	-	<u>R300.00</u>
Minimum Requirement		R4750.00

This does not account for any luxuries or extras. This only describes a hand to mouth existence and domestic workers are not even there.

So how do the worker provide for her family when she is living on borrowing money?

Looking At A National Minimum Wage,

Sadsawu is in favour of discussing this as domestic workers should be able to have a decent wage to provide a decent living for their family.

But when we do this we will bear in mind the current situation in our country re unemployment levels; the economic crisis, job losses, but even this should not prevent us from seeking a living wage for all.

Recently there was an interesting article in the news paper where women discussed that many housewives said they are worth about R3000.00 to be a house wife.

Looking at the situation in our country it is the domestic worker that is doing All the work of the housewife, but you will never hear them say that we are worth so much more,

A national minimum wage will slowly but surely provide a better life for the domestic workers, and even workers in other industries where salaries are as low. Based on our example above, a minimum of no less than R5000.00 or even more will surely a begin to make a difference to our people's quality of life.

SADSAWU
10 June 2015

