

Farm workers to get increased wages

THE NEW AGE PAGE 04 [09/02/2016]

THELMA NGOMA

WORKERS from the farming and forestry sectors are set to receive an increase in minimum wage effective from next month.

Labour Minister Mildred Oliphant announced yesterday that after extensive consultations and consideration of submissions from employers and employees both in the farming and forestry sectors, they have decided to increase the minimum wages of farm workers.

“Wage adjustments are morally right so as to ensure workers’ earnings keep pace with the rising cost of living while boosting the purchasing power which benefits the economy,” Oliphant said.

The department said it applied the consumer price index(CPI) to calculate minimum wage increases.

As of March 1, farm workers will be receiving R14.25 hourly, R641.32

THE NEW MINIMUM WAGES FOR FARM WORKERS		
MINIMUM RATE FOR THE PERIOD	MINIMUM RATE FOR THE PERIOD	MINIMUM RATE FOR THE PERIOD
1 MARCH 2016 TO 28 FEB 2017	1 MARCH 2017 TO 28 FEB 2018	1 MARCH 2018 TO 28 FEB 2019
MONTHLY WEEKLY DAILY HOURLY	MONTHLY WEEKLY DAILY HOURLY	MONTHLY WEEKLY DAILY HOURLY
R2778.83 R641.32 R128.26* R14.25	PREVIOUS YEAR'S MINIMUM WAGE + CPI*+1%	PREVIOUS YEAR'S MINIMUM WAGE + CPI**+1%
*FOR AN EMPLOYEE WHO WORKED FOR 9 HOURS		
** THE CPI TO BE UTILISED IS EXCLUDING OWNER'S EQUIVALENT RENT AS RELEASED BY STATISTICS SA SIX WEEKS PRIOR TO THE INCREMENT DATE.		

weekly and R2 778.83 as a monthly rate. The daily wage for a farm worker who works nine hours a day is R128.26, which is almost an R8 increase from last year’s R120.32.

The department said it was aware of the challenges faced by the agricultural

sector with regard to certain areas affected by drought and how farmers are toiling with tough decisions on whether or not to retain labour

Oliphant encouraged farmers in areas affected by drought to apply for ministerial variations in terms of

Section 50 of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.

Section 50 makes provision for the minister to replace or exclude any basic condition of employment provided for in the act.

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