

Editorial



FROM THE EDITOR

The much promoted Employment Tax Incentive's benefits are still to be seen writes Jenny Grice. There is no evidence that new jobs have been created and the main winners in these early stages are employers and labour brokers. Unions continue to be opposed to the policy.

The farm workers strike shows how new forms of organising can work for farmworkers. Focusing on the De Doorns Jesse Wilderman writes that the strike moved away from traditional approaches of individual appeals, negotiations and avoiding conflict. Instead the strike was defined by 'open conflict, including burning of vineyards, protest marches, and pitched battles with the police'.

Sexual harassment among lesbian, gay, bisexual and gender non-confirming women workers is common at workplaces as seen in various articles in this issue. Maleshoane Motaung narrates how homophobia becomes a 'collective and individualised hatred' and Libuseng Khantsi-Lebipi writes on verbal and physical harassment which borders on invasion of personal space that the Labour Relations Act has failed to deal with. Furthermore, Jennifer Ayabazibwe writes on workmates' homophobic attitudes that are caused by 'ignorance and stupidity'

while Tebogo Makhi Makhalele emphasises lesbians' rights to work. Lesbians, she says, should not be a target of discrimination and stigma.

With the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) Special National Congress (SNC) scheduled for July 2015 it looks the show is not over yet. What are the chances of the congress bringing the divided unions together? Expelled National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa lost an urgent court application to be allowed to attend the SNC while some unions are boycotting Cosatu activities. As the Cosatu factions battle it out its checkmate writes Tumi Malope.

Traditional leaders are the main beneficiaries of revenue from mining companies writes Sonwabile Mnwana and Gavin Capps. This is so despite history showing that some of the land being claimed by traditional authorities in the Bakgatla-ba-Kgafela traditional council area was bought by communities and therefore belongs to them. The communities are rarely consulted and are organising and raising voices on the issue.

A living wage is one that a worker is able to live on writes Lucien Van Der Walt but capitalism often doesn't want to pay a living wage. Instead under the capitalist system labour costs are cut so as to maximise on profits. Therefore the

struggle should go beyond wages but to build working class power against capitalism.

The growth of the construction sector post 1994 has been accompanied by inequality writes Eddie Cottle. It has neither brought better wages nor transformed the industry.

The informal and formal economies in South Africa are not separate but linked. They should therefore be seen as interdependent writes Siyabulela Fobosi.

Can the election of new Mozambican president Filipe Jacinto Nyusi bring about change in the Southern African country asks Fredson Guilengue? Nyusi is faced with the declining popularity of Frelimo (in power since independence in 1975), threats of civil war from the opposition Renamo, social tensions and even accusations of electoral fraud.

In other polls in Africa's most populous country a sitting president loses in elections. Denja Yaqub writes that the Nigerian electorate rejected incompetence, corruption and lack of focus from former president Goodluck Jonathan. He also warns that the incoming administration of Muhammadu Buhari will face the same fate if they don't deliver. ^{LB}

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