



NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR COUNCIL

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NEDLAC WELCOMES THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE WEGE BILL

Nedlac welcomes the decision by Minister Shabangu to rework the Women Empowerment and Gender Equity (Wege) Bill. When the bill was tabled at Nedlac the social partners raised some pertinent concerns and Nedlac formally requested the Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities that Bill to table a redrafted version for consideration by the social partners. NEDLAC also formally raised its concerns with the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on women, children and people with disabilities, advising her that the social partners had been dissatisfied with the state of the bill and felt it could not be engaged on until substantial changes had been made.

Some of the key areas of concern included that

- The draft Wege Bill had not adequately taken into account whether existing legislation did not already regulate areas that it proposed to cover.
- No consideration had been given to the consequences the Wege Bill would have for the interpretation and enforcement of other legislation that fall under the responsibility of other line function departments.

If properly conceived this could potentially be an important piece of legislation that underpins the empowerment of women and by complementing existing legislation open up new opportunities for women.

Nedlac remains ready to engage on the new draft when it is tabled here.

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