



## **MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**24 JULY 2025**

### **NEDLAC RESPONDS TO CONCERNS ON LABOUR LAW AMENDMENTS**

The National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) acknowledges the concerns raised by the organisations forming the Campaign to Scrap the Labour Law Amendment Bills and respects their constitutional right to peaceful protest and public participation.

#### **1. NEDLAC's Role and Mandate**

NEDLAC is a statutory body established to facilitate consensus and cooperation between government, labour, business, and community constituencies on social and economic policy. As such, NEDLAC does not unilaterally make or pass legislation. Instead, it provides a platform for the social partners to engage in discussions and present recommendations to the relevant authorities.

#### **2. On the Labour Law Amendment Process**

The amendments in question have been under discussion within NEDLAC's structures involving representatives from organised labour, organised business, government, and community organisations. These are multi-party negotiations, and no decisions have been made in secret or in isolation.

All proposals tabled at NEDLAC are subject to rigorous debate, with inputs from all stakeholders. Any draft legislative changes are further processed through Parliament's public consultation mechanisms, where civil society is invited to make submissions.

#### **3. On Allegations of Downgrading Worker Rights**

NEDLAC takes any suggestion of a regression in worker protections seriously. The Council wishes to clarify that:

- No agreement has been finalised on scrapping disciplinary processes or undermining job security for vulnerable workers.
- Discussions have included proposals from various constituencies, including some aimed at improving flexibility for small businesses and addressing inefficiencies in current labour dispute processes.
- These proposals are still under negotiation, and no final position has been adopted.

#### **4. Commitment to Transparency and Engagement**

NEDLAC remains open to engagement with all interested parties, including those not formally represented in its structures. We invite the Campaign to formally engage with the Council or participate in the public consultation process once the draft bills are published by Parliament.

We are also considering hosting an open dialogue forum in the coming weeks to further clarify the intent, content, and status of the proposed amendments and to hear all voices directly.

**Issued by:**

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