

SA Labour Bulletin

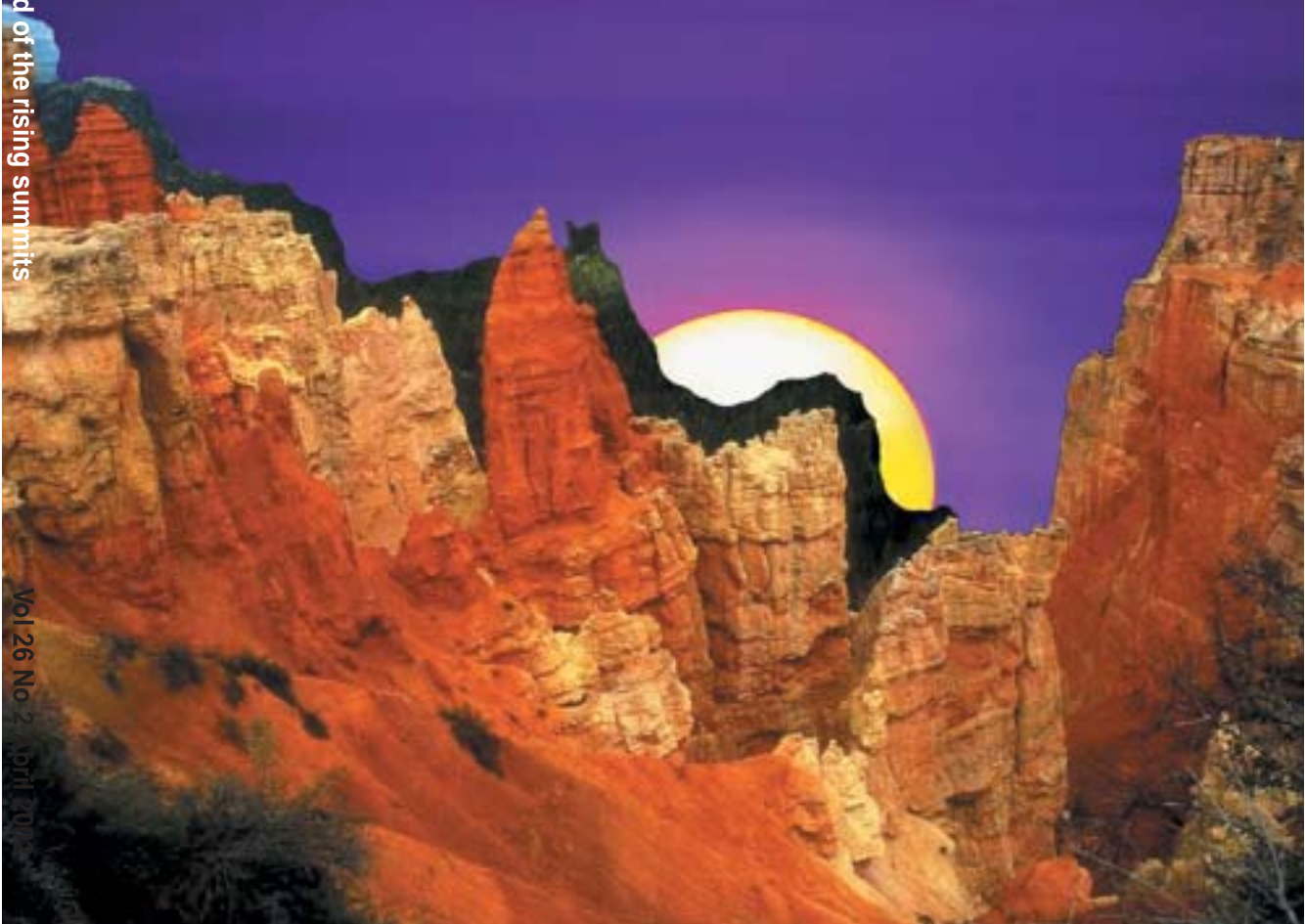
SOUTH AFRICAN  
**LABOUR  
BULLETIN**

Volume 26 Number 2 April 2002

**SA: Land of the  
rising summits**

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In the previous *Labour Bulletin* we mentioned that a number of summits would be taking place in South Africa this year. Some, such as the sector summits, emerged out of deals struck during the 1998 Presidential Jobs Summit. Government has called for others such as the moral regeneration summit and the growth and investment summit planned for September 2002.

It is ironic that the previous National Party-led government held both a growth and a moral regeneration summit. Johan Heyns, the head of the Dutch Reform Church called for a moral regeneration summit after the Boipatong massacre. He became worried about the decline of morals in government after hearing various speakers, at the funerals, talking about corruption in government. Such a summit might be opportune as this government faces a number of moral dilemmas – go ahead with the R56bn arms deal (which remains shrouded in secrecy and speculation as to who else was enriched, besides the fall guys named) or fund anti-retrovirals for pregnant women and rape victims.

Some might well question whether government is holding summits because it is under pressure to show it is doing something? The reality is that, for whatever reason, government has recognised that various problems have to be addressed. The call for a growth summit was made out of a need to urgently address the crisis in the economy. This acknowledgement is a positive step in itself and is necessary if all parties are to seriously seek solutions. What remains to be seen is whether this summit will begin a process of proper social



dialogue; degenerate into a job summit type process with little results or merely act as a vehicle to legitimise government policy.

The idea of a social accord/compact will be a non-starter if parties do not have realistic expectations. At the same time, preconceived notions about what each party is able to deliver on will merely undermine what is possible. The process will require the capacity of the major economic actors to put on hold short-term gains for longer-term stability and growth. This is a tough call for all parties, not only for labour. A special report focuses on whether a growth summit can deliver.

Other articles focus on the new Unemployment Insurance Act which comes into effect from 1 April 2002 and the impact of the debt spiral amongst the employed. Readers might notice some new additions such as the reintroduction of 'com dot com' due to popular demand for some irreverence in this country.

Reneé Grawitzky  
**Editor**

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**Published by** Umanyano Publications cc 89/00595/23 • ISSN 0377-5429 • 7th floor, Heerengracht Building, 87 de Korte Street, Braamfontein • PO Box 3851, Johannesburg, 2000 South Africa • **Phone:** (011) 403-3075 • **Fax:** (011) 403-9873

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• **Printed by:** Natal Witness Commercial Printers Pty Ltd, Pietermaritzburg • **Published since** 1974

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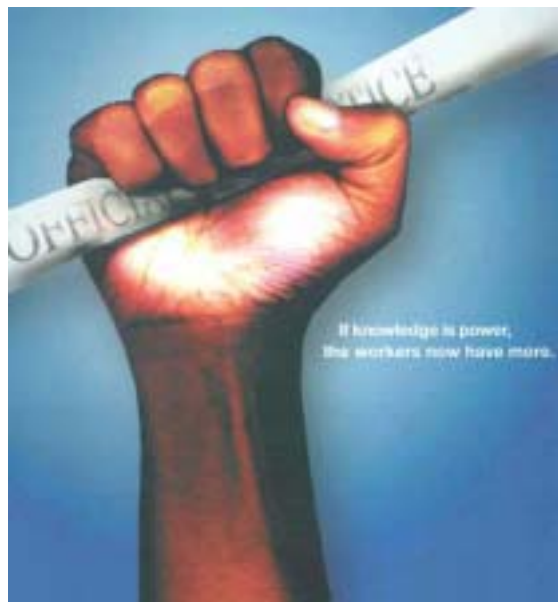
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## **Mergers & Acquisitions**

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& a Right to Participate**



### **HOW TRADE UNIONS PARTICIPATED IN 2001**

- The Competition Commission conducted Presentations/ workshops on the Act
- TU participated in approximately 60% of merger cases

**In 2002 The Competition Commission will continue with its  
effort to train Trade Unions at no cost**

**To promote employment and advance economic welfare of  
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