

SOUTH AFRICAN  
**LABOUR  
BULLETIN**

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# Zim: A queer state of affairs

## editor's notes

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The start of a new year should represent new beginnings. As trite as this may sound, it is certainly the case for the *Labour Bulletin*, which will be undergoing a 'make-over' in the months ahead.

In the coming months, readers will begin to see some changes not only to the content and format, but also in the overall appearance of the publication (constructive criticism, comments and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged). This 'make-over' does not imply that the *Bulletin's* tradition will be lost. It will retain all those elements that made it a critical publication in the 1970s and 1980s. However, we are now operating in 2002 and the publication needs to increasingly cater to the changing needs of its market.

Throughout the *Labour Bulletin's* 28-year history it has always reflected, and often driven, the key debates of the day whether it be the registration debate or joining industrial councils to the future of the tripartite alliance and state asset restructuring.

The opening up of the South African economy has brought to the fore a whole range of new challenges for all stakeholders in the labour market. The *Bulletin* intends to capture these and ensure a forum continues to exist for open debate.

Turning to this, the first edition of the year, the *Bulletin* will be focusing on some of the key debates taking place amongst the unions in the Southern African region. The special report will look at the political challenges facing labour within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The upcoming elections in



Zimbabwe will therefore, feature quite strongly with an assessment of the role played by labour in challenging President Robert Mugabe. The Zimbabwean unions found themselves split between their old allegiance to the ruling Zanu-PF and involvement in starting a new political party – the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) – which might not necessarily promote the interests of labour in the long term. This raises questions about the possibility, but little else at this stage, of a mass workers' party in SA.

Other articles will focus on the economy and the effect of the declining rand on workers; broader political developments within the tripartite alliance and the myriad of summits taking place this year. Readers will also notice new additions, such as an arts and culture section.

As the new editor, I look forward to the challenges this year brings for all of us.

Reneé Grawitzky  
Editor

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