

# Communications

## Nedlac Publications

The Nedlac newsletter, the "Dialogue" continued to be in great demand. Five issues were published in the year under review. These were posted to 3 500 recipients, whilst 700 copies were sent to Parliament. An electronic version of the newsletter is sent out to email subscribers, and it is also placed on the website.

The regular columns in the bi-monthly South African Labour Bulletin continued.

The first edition of a quarterly publication of socio-economic development trends was produced.

The Annual Report and the post-Summit report were produced. Two thousand copies of the Annual Report and 200 copies of the post-Summit report were distributed.

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## Website

The Nedlac website continues to be a popular means of accessing Nedlac information, providing access to all Nedlac agreements, as well as providing links to other constituency websites, a research database and a project section. All media releases are posted on the website, as are weekly schedules of the meetings that are taking place at Nedlac that week.

In the year under review, there were on average over one thousand hits on the website per day. In terms of individual visitors who hit on a number of different pages within the website, this translates into an average of 3500 – 4000 visitors per month.

## Public information

The website generates a large number of queries from all around the world regarding general information about Nedlac, and many other issues as well. The Communications Department replied to all queries, either providing the information, electronically or via fax or post, or pointing the person in the correct direction. Nedlac features on the curricula of many tertiary institutions, and students requesting information on Nedlac processes were assisted.

The Nedlac Section 14 Manual in terms of the Provision of Access to Information Act was compiled, and one enquiry under the Act was received and processed.

The Nedlac display table has continued to be an excellent vehicle for the distribution of printed material. Government departments, unions and community groupings have used the table to distribute their material. The display at the Annual Summit has also continued to be a very popular opportunity for constituencies to display and distribute their material.

### **Media coverage**

The secretariat tracks the mentions of Nedlac's name in the media on a weekly basis. On the basis of this analysis, Nedlac's media coverage is exceptionally high. In the year under review, Nedlac was featured in a total of 816 articles in the print media, an average of 68 articles per month, or 15 per week. It should be noted that some of these articles mention Nedlac merely in the context of information that is available or people who are involved in Nedlac structures.

Nedlac issued 22 media releases in the period under review, apart from the "week-ahead" releases.

Issues which attracted a significant amount of media coverage included:

- Plastic bag issue
- Growth and Development Summit
- Immigration legislation
- Cape Metrorail Section 77
- ICT Sector Summit
- Financial Sector Summit
- Proudly South African
- Labour Law Amendments
- Food price increases
- Cosatu Section 77 notices
- HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment framework agreement.
- The Nedlac Annual Summit

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### **Exhibitions**

Apart from the exhibition at the Annual Summit, Nedlac also put up exhibition tables at the Fedusa National Congress on 21-22 May, and at the ICT sector summit on 3-4 June, the Civil Society Summit on 12-13 August, and the Transformation of the Financial Sector Summit on 20 August.

### **Nedlac history**

The Nedlac history banner was updated, and copies made to hand out as gifts to VIP visitors.

## Visits to Nedlac

A highlight of the year under review was the visit by the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation, Juan Somavia, to Nedlac.

He gave the constituencies a strong message regarding the importance of putting job creation strategies at the heart of all Government policy making. "Employment cannot be the result of economic policies, it should be the objective", he told a meeting of Nedlac's Management Committee. He said that he was becoming increasingly worried that the present model of globalisation was incapable of producing jobs where the people are.

Paying Nedlac an enormous compliment, he said that if any country in the world was capable of solving this problem, it was South Africa, and if South Africa managed to do it, it would be because of Nedlac.

Mr Somavia's second challenge to South Africa was to pay more attention to the local sector of the economy. "South Africa will not create the jobs the country needs by just hooking into the global economy, you need to concentrate on the local", he said.

- At the request of the Department of Labour, Nedlac hosted a tripartite delegation from Ghana on 16 May, led by the Deputy Minister of Manpower and Employment.
- At the request of the ILO, Nedlac hosted a tripartite delegation from Nigeria on 22 May.
- There was a follow-up visit from a Tanzanian delegation in the first week of July. The group, which included representatives from the Government and the Business Council, studied Nedlac's model in detail. They proposed further interaction in future, beginning with an invite to visit them in Dar es Salaam.
- A group from Ditsela's Women's Group studies visited Nedlac on 25 June.
- Nedlac hosted the Portfolio Committee of Labour on 30 July
- There was a tripartite delegation from Japan which met the secretariat on 2 August 2002. (They met with constituencies separately).
- Ditsela brought another study group for a session on 18 September.
- There was a visit from a delegation from the IMF on 27 November. Discussion was largely around the transformation of the financial sector, black economic empowerment and the forthcoming growth and development summit
- S. Marchi, Chairman of the WTO General Council in 2002, Permanent Representative of Canada to the WTO and Ambassador E. Pérez Motta, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the WTO, Chairman of the WTO TRIPS Council, addressed a special meeting of the Trade and Industry Chamber on 6 March 2003.