



# **BARGAINING COUNCIL FOR THE FOOD RETAIL, RESTAURANT, CATERING & ALLIED TRADES**

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**DATE:** 13 SEPTEMBER 2013

**TO:** EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE BARGAINING COUNCIL FOR THE FOOD RETAIL,  
RESTAURANT, CATERING & ALLIED TRADES

## **UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND THE COUNCIL'S MAIN AGREEMENT**

As you are aware the council's main agreement expired 31 July 2013. As there was no agreement reached that would be signed and ready by that date the council requested the Minister to extend the agreement to 31 October 2013. The extension has been granted and published in Government Gazette No. 36684, R514 of 26 July 2013.

Below is a brief outline of the process since 5 March 2013 to date.

The first round of negotiations commenced 5 March 2013 at the council. Although several meetings were held during those first rounds of negotiations no agreement could be reached. The council then sought the assistance of CCMA commissioners experienced in the negotiations process. Two different commissioners facilitated these negotiations on different occasions but the parties still deadlocked.

The unions declared a dispute to the council. The matter was heard on 9 July 2013 and the conciliation process was extended to 11 July 2013. As there was no agreement between the parties the commissioner issued a certificate. The unions served a notice on the employers in terms of Section 64(1)(b) of their intention to embark on a work stoppage on 2 August 2013. The unions and their members marched on the council on 2 August 2013 to hand over a memorandum of proposals.

On 15 August 2013 the CCMA extended an offer in terms of Section 150 of the LRA to conciliate the dispute between the parties to the council. The parties accepted this invitation and on 21 August 2013 the matter was set down at the CCMA for conciliation. Again no agreement could be reached and the parties met again on 27 August 2013.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013 the parties still could not reach an agreement and it was agreed that a further meeting will be held at the CCMA on 6 September 2013.

On 6 September 2013 the Commission will attempt to secure an agreement between the parties, alternatively if no agreement is reached on the negotiations, the Commissioner will then assist in the setting of the rules that will apply to any picket in relation to a strike or lock-out.

On 11 September 2013 the parties reached an agreement. The agreement will be forwarded to the minister and will only be enforced once signed and published.

Should you require any further information kindly contact the office at the above number.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Basilio', is written over a horizontal line.

**Monica Basilio**  
**Chief Administrative Officer**