

The question of a national minimum wage for all workers in South Africa and the level at which such a minimum wage should be set is one of the most contested discussion in South Africa today.

Since 1994 our labour market remains largely un-transformed and continues on a low wage trajectory. The median wage in 2013 was R3033 per month with 50% of all workers earning less than the median. This low wage trajectory has major implications for household affordability of essential goods and services.

In February 2015 PACSA's research showed that a household of 7 requires a minimum of R6688.00 to provide for the barest essentials and that most households only have one wage earner. According to a World Bank Report 86% of South Africans are in debt and a National Credit Regulator report shows that 22.28 million accounts have been in arrears for three months or more. It is this context that makes a discussion on a national minimum wage an urgent one.

The roundtable will address questions such as: the relation between wages and employment? Whether a national minimum wage could assist in transforming the low wage labour market while also contributing to economic productivity? At what level should such a minimum wage be set to afford households a level of dignity?



Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Action (PACSA) and the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLLO) invite you to participate in a roundtable discussion on:

A National Minimum Wage for South Africa

Panelists:

Edward Cottle: Labour Research Service, CT

Gilad Isaacs: Researcher, CSID, Wits University

Bandile Ngidi: Junior researcher, CSID, Wits Univ.

Two workers (names to be announced later)

Date: Tuesday, 14 July 2015

Venue: Imperial Hotel, 224 Jabu Ndlovu Street (Parking available on the Burger Street entrance)

Time: 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 pm. Lunch will be served.

RSVP: Sonia Nunthoolall (admin@pacsa.org.za) before Friday, 10 July 2015