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IN THIS ISSUE:

P.1 Research Report issue
by the ILO

News

Farm Workers' Living and Working Conditions in South Africa: key trends, emergent issues, and underlying and structural problems.

(Issued by the ILO, July 21 2015)

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NOTE THAT THIS
REPORT IS ONLY
AVAILABLE IN
ENGLISH –
THEREFOR THE
NEWSLETTER
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AFRIKAANS.

Employment relations between farm workers and their employers are in the spotlight following violent farm worker protests in the Western Cape in November 2012 and the revision of the Sectoral Determination 13: Farm Worker Sector in March 2013. The emergence of various (sometimes controversial) studies and media reports on farm workers' working and living conditions over the past few years has deepened and broadened the discourse on the multiple and diverse challenges facing agricultural producers, employers and workers. However, outdated assumptions and oversimplifications continue to fuel unhealthy polarisation in the perceptions and views of key role players and the public in general. **This research study, compiled by Margareet Visser and Stuart Ferrer and released by the ILO, seeks to highlight the ways in which the landscape has changed and to provide a perspective that allows for a more systemic understanding of the drivers that create the conditions for labour conflict.**

Five desktop reviews were undertaken as part of Phase 1 of the research project. These reviews focused on the following:

- (a) the demographics of farm workers and farm dwellers;
- (b) the underlying economic context that governs farm employment;
- (c) the regulatory framework that governs the relationship and circumstances between farm workers, farm dwellers, employers and owners, labour brokers and other contractors;
- (d) the socio-economic conditions of farm workers; and
- (e) the movement of workers off-farm, including consideration of trends relating to tenure security of farm dwellers and farm evictions.

Statistics on issues such as market deregulation and trade liberalisation, integration and global food value chains; legislating the relationship between producers and labour, paid vacation leave' paid sick leave and medical aid or health insurance contribution etc. is indicated in the report.

If you would like to read the full report click on the link below otherwise email to retha@siza.co.za and we will send you the report by mail.

http://www.politicsweb.co.za/politicsweb/action/media/downloadFile?media_fileid=3186

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