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Attention: News Editors/ Beat Reporters

NEDLAC LAUNCHES PROJECT TO REFLECT ON 30 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

The National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) at a Special Executive Council (Exco) meeting launched a project on Friday, May 10, 2024, to reflect on 30 years of democracy in South Africa and plan for the future.

The Special Exco meeting was held in the wake of the publication by the government of the *30-Year Review Report of South Africa's Democracy between 1994 and 2024*, on Wednesday 8th May 2024. The social partners have agreed that they will consider the review, add their own reflections and focus on the catalytic actions that they can contribute to taking our country forward.

Minister Maropene Ramokgopa, the Minister in the Presidency responsible for planning, monitoring, and evaluation, whose Department was responsible for the 30-year review addressed the meeting, which was attended by the Nedlac social partners representing, labour, community, government and business.

Minister Ramokgopa told the launch that Nedlac was well placed to bring together the diverse perspectives of social partners, including organised labour, business, community and government, into a progressive dialogue towards achieving our national aspirations, which are expressed in the National Development Plan (NDP).

"Extensive engagement and negotiation at Nedlac have contributed to transforming the labour market and aligned legislation with the rights in the Constitution, reversing the lack of dignity and exploitation that workers experienced in the past," she said.

She further stated that social compacting was essential for resolving impasses regarding development-critical factors beyond the control of the government, including youth development, economic transformation, poverty alleviation, and employment creation.

She emphasised that the establishment of Nedlac had served a transformation role and stood out as a form of policy innovation and active citizenry.

The Nedlac social partners have committed over the next couple of months to consider the 30-year review and make their own reflections and contributions on the country's achievements, the lessons and what should be put in place going forward.

This will culminate in a report that will be handed over to the next government administration at this year's Nedlac's 29th Annual Summit which will take place on September 06, 2024.

"The report will focus on socio-economic issues including economic development, employment, the labour market, social protection and the just transition.

The desire would be that the contents of the report will feed into government planning for the next five years, confirmed Lisa Seftel, Executive Director of Nedlac.

"Depending on the contents of the report, it can also guide the work of social partners in Nedlac for the same period," Seftel added.

Ends

Media Enquiries and interview requests can be directed to Farhana Ismail, info@fbicommunications.com /0827876987 (on behalf of Nedlac)

