

South Africa

Lottery workers march over wages, working conditions

Demand changes to the way the National Lotteries Commission is run.

By Ihsaan Haffejee, GroundUp · 9 May 2025 ⌚ 04:01



NLC employees marched to the offices of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competitiveness in Pretoria this



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and waved placards about their grievances.

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They called for the removal of the NLC board, an end to “selective accountability”, and higher increases during wage negotiations. They said vulnerable communities were not benefitting enough from lottery money.

The protest follows weeks of picketing by employees after wage negotiations for the 2025/26 financial year deadlocked. The PSA is demanding an 8.5% increase, and the NLC is offering 6.5%.

Last year, the union and the NLC were unable to come to an agreement, and the PSA has accused management of unilaterally implementing a cost-of-living adjustment while the wage negotiations



Union calls c



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workers of this organisation,” said Muhanelwa.

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He complained about the appointment of consultants, the lack of worker performance bonuses, the lack of transparency, and the decline in governance standards.

The workers handed over a memorandum at the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition offices.


Wage hike a ‘substantial’ increase

NLC Commissioner Jodi Scholtz said in a statement that rather than risk a long dispute, the NLC had implemented a 7% across-the-board increase in the 2024/25 financial year.

“This comprised a 4.4% pensionable increase and a non-pensionable allowance equivalent to 2.6% of salary, payable until March 2025.”

Scholtz said at the time inflation was about 4%, so this was a “substantial” increase.

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regulations and the law.

“While we understand the challenges faced by community-based organisations, compliance is not optional; it is a legal and ethical obligation that affects South Africa’s international standing. Management has a legal duty to comply with legislation.”

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“Our ongoing modernisation initiative is designed to enhance transparency and reduce corruption. These are goals we hope all stakeholders, including the PSA, will support and not frustrate.

“We have also engaged in actions towards lifestyle audits, something the PSA has not consistently supported,” said Tshigemane.

“While change can be unsettling, the Commissioner has repeatedly assured staff that no job losses are anticipated as a result of these reforms.”

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