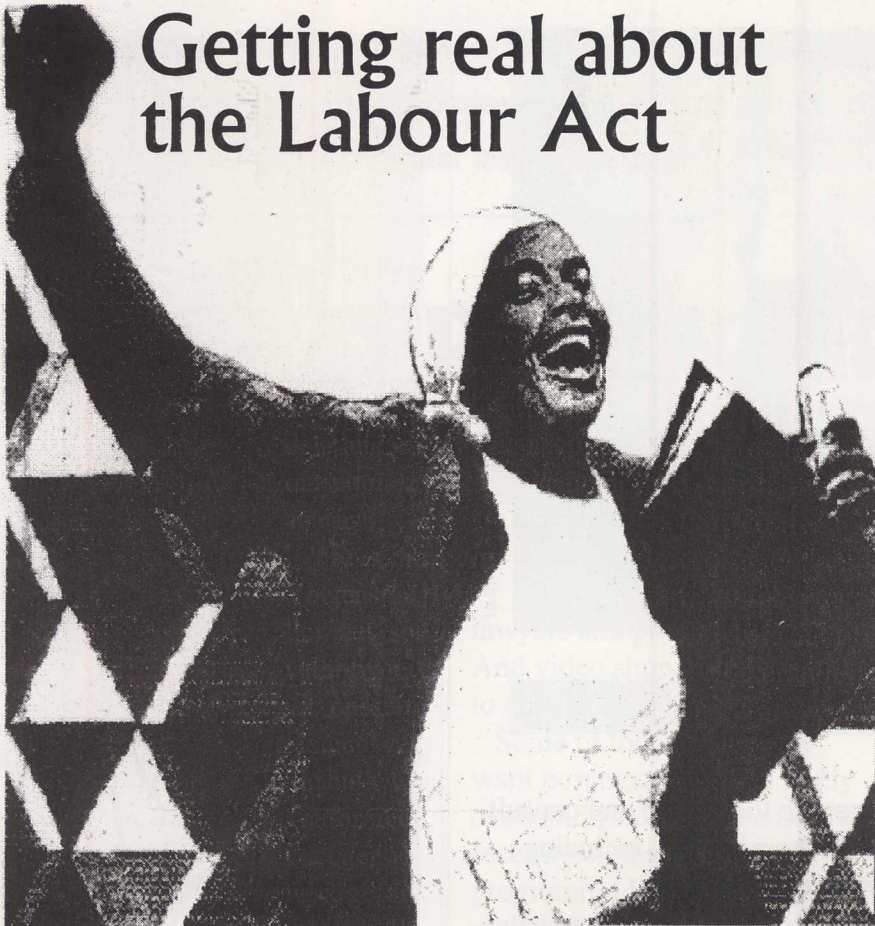


Getting real about the Labour Act



credit: No Turning Back

Much has been reported about the problems of domestic workers, and a commission of enquiry into labour-related matters affecting domestic and agricultural workers was set up earlier this year.

Much of the available information is based on individual cases of employees who seek assistance from the Namibian Domestic and Allied Workers Union (NDAWU). But how much do we really know about employment conditions of domestic workers?

To bring more clarity to this question the Legal Assistance Centre, in collaboration with the Social Sciences Department of the University, are doing research based on interviews with 240 employers and domestic workers using a comprehensive questionnaire. The interviews will be con-

ducted by para-legal workers of the Legal Assistance Centre who will team up with UNAM students and NDAWU staff specifically trained to collect the information needed.

The field work was expected to start in the second week of June and will cover the towns of Oshakati, Outjo, Otjiwarongo, Okakarara, Grootfontein, Rundu, Kombat, Windhoek, Gobabis, Rehoboth, Gibeon, Keetmanshoop, Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Arandis.

The study will only cover 1% of all domestic workers in Namibia. It is therefore seen as a pilot project which will highlight the most common working and living conditions of domestic workers as well as a range of problems faced by workers and their employers. The study is expected to come up with suggestions for changes.

Currently, the lack of an organisation representing the employers of domestic workers is seen as a shortcoming in bringing about necessary changes that will be acceptable by workers and employers.

The assistance of both domestic workers and employees in answering the comprehensive questions of the field workers will be needed to gain a realistic picture of the diverse employment conditions in this sector.

The findings and recommendations of the research will be made available to the commission of enquiry in early September 1995, and the commissions' report is due by 31 October this year.

Competition Winners

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The six lucky winners of a Sister T-shirt each are: Rikildis Shilongo from Windhoek, Kerthu Komomeya from Oshakati, Edna Makole from Ngwezi, Ester Iuhwa from Lüderitz, Pinehas Amadhila from Grootfontein and Anna Katri Kapenda from Ondangwa.

Your T-shirts are on the way to you through the post.

Five lucky winners of the Sister anthology of women's writing, *A New Initiation Song* are Nangula Kathindi from Oshakati, Documentalist in Harare, Veronica Mokwena from Gobabis, ICD in Windhoek and Hilma Nuuyuni from Ondangwa.

Congratulations!