

■ CCMA

# Labour arbitration body reports 142 000 disputes since start of year

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THE Council for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) has faced more than 142 000 labour disputes since the beginning of the year.

This is at a time when the economy is battling under pressure, and efforts are being made to try to grow it at above one percent.

The National Treasury and the South African Reserve Bank have already revised growth projections from 2.5% to below 1%.

The economy has not grown at a rate higher than 5% in the past 10 years, leading to a number of challenges facing the government.

In a written reply to Parliament, Employment and Labour Minister Thulas Nxesi said more than 142 000 disputes have been referred to the

CCMA since the beginning of the year.

DA MP Michael Bagraim had asked a question concerning the number of disputes before the council.

The council has been resolving various disputes in certain sectors of the economy.

Nxesi said there had been 142 509 disputes lodged from January 1.

The country's labour unions have been clamouring for the government and the private sector to save jobs in different sectors of the economy.

Sibanye-Stillwater announced yesterday it would cut more than 5 000 jobs at its operations in Marikana.

The jobs bloodbath in the mining sector has been going on for years now, with more than 100 000 jobs lost in the past few years.

The construction sector has lost 140 000 jobs as several of its major companies folded.



Thulas Nxesi

The Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Lindiwe Sisulu, and the Minister of Public Works, Patricia de Lille, said earlier this year that they would work with the construction sector in an attempt to keep it in business.

The jobs bloodbath had also led to



Patricia de Lille

President Cyril Ramaphosa calling for an investment summit last October, where major companies committed to invest R300 billion in the economy.

Ramaphosa said a follow-up summit would be held later this year to assess the impact the summit had in stemming job losses and creating

more jobs.

There are currently more than 10 million South Africans unemployed.

Statistics South Africa said recently there had been an increase in unemployment. This followed an increase from 27.6% in the last quarter to 29%.

The parties in Parliament have described this as a jobs crisis, and say there is a serious need for the government to intervene.

Parties have said that the State-Owned Entities should have been creating more jobs to absorb those who are unemployed into the labour market.

Nxesi said most of the disputes before the CCMA had only been lodged in the past few months.

The CCMA had also told Parliament a few years ago there had been a steady increase in the number of disputes it was presiding over.