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## Minimum wage boost beats inflation

The national minimum wage will increase by R1,21c per hour from 1 March, bringing it from R27,58c to R28,79c per hour.

Minister of employment & labour Nomakhosazana Mthethwa gazetted the change on Tuesday.

Cosatu hailed the "progressive" increase, which amounts to about 4,4%, saying it comprises inflation plus 1,5%. "This will help protect the value of the national minimum wage and workers' ability to take care of their families," said parliamentary co-ordinator Matthew Parks. "It will inject badly needed stimulus into the economy, spurring growth, sustaining and creating badly needed jobs."

"It will provide relief to six million workers, in particular farm, domestic, construction, retail, transport, hospitality, security, and cleaning workers."

The new minimum wage sets a new

**It will inject badly needed stimulus into the economy, spurring growth, sustaining and creating badly needed jobs**

baseline across all sectors, including for farm workers and domestic workers.

There are exceptions, however, for workers on Expanded Public Works and those with learnership agreements.

Agri SA said it recognises that the national minimum wage commission took a balanced approach to safeguard workers and consider the sustainability of the sector. — *DDR*