

# LENASIA RISING SUN

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# Domestic Workers Speak Out

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**D**OMESTIC workers keep homes clean, and cook and take care of family members. Some of them are part of the families for whom they work. Some live on their employers' properties while others travel to work.

The Izwi Domestic Workers Alliance is the voice of domestic workers. The organisation aims to root out ill-treatment of domestic workers and to improve their working conditions where necessary. On October 5, domestic workers, a CCMA delegate, ANC PR Councillor Zarina Motala and Izwi Domestic Workers Alliance members gathered at the Lenasia Moden Primary School where the domestic workers raised pertinent issues such as salaries, sexual harassment, exploitation and long working hours.

One worker, who wanted to remain anonymous, said, "We are being exploited, but we are scared to speak out because we have families to feed. Some of us know what time we have to start working, but we don't know what time we will be able to leave. Some of us earn less than R1 400 per month, but we work longer hours and more days than the law prescribes. We cannot even report the sexual harassment that we experience on a daily basis. Some of us are badly treated. We cannot go to shop without an escort, nor can we attend to our personal shopping because we are always at work.



If I were to take leave during the festive season, I will not receive a full salary."

PR Councillor Motala said that it was time for domestic workers and their employers to discuss the issues affecting them, so that an amicable solution could be reached. She shared the domestic workers' sentiments and encouraged them to speak out. She also alluded to the issue of crime. She said that in some burglaries, domestic workers were

guilty of providing the criminals with relevant information. However, she promised to leave no stone unturned in addressing the workers' plight. Thomas Nemushungwa from the CCMA said that the domestic employment sector needed to be respected like any other employment sector. "Employers must not undermine employees because some of them are the sole bread-winners in their homes. However, I am here to tell you that our

doors are always open. If workers are being exploited, they should come to our offices. We have measures to deal with these issues. If an employer fires an employee, whether or not there is an employment contract, the CCMA will help the employee. Some of these issues will be referred to the Dept. of Labour and if there is a need, the sheriff will be sent to the place of employment to retrieve any personal property or unpaid salaries."

## Notice of East Wave Radio's Annual General Meeting November 11

The Board of East Wave Radio 92.2 Fm cordially invites the community to their next AGM to be held on Monday November 11, 2019 at the Baitun Noor Centre, Topaas Street, ext 5, Lenasia at 7:00 pm for 7:30pm. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the progress of the station and elect members to serve. Annually, the station commits to providing this platform

to discuss the station's progress and to encourage participation from the community, especially from organisations who benefit from the station's airtime. The notice is also published on the station's website and on social media. The meeting is open to everyone and will start from 7:00 pm with registrations. For further information contact the station on 011-854-4451.

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