Unpacking the New Agreement on Collective Bargaining and Strikes

On 7 February 2017, various agreements were reached between business, labour and government (the social partners). These agreements could, if properly implemented, significantly shift the tone and conduct of collective bargaining and industrial conflict in South Africa.

The new consensus should produce a number of changes to the Labour Relations Act provisions on collective bargaining, and result in the adoption of a brand new and comprehensive code of good practice on collective bargaining, industrial action and picketing.

Consensus of this kind has been scarce in recent years. Are we seeing the green shoots of a new era of social cohesion? Is there a realistic chance that this signals the end of a damaging period of adversarial industrial relations, and does it suggest the start of a new era of social cohesion? Or is that simply naïve and misplaced optimism?

Join our seminar in the main auditorium at our new premises at 11 Alice Lane, Sandton for an analysis of the impact. Chris Todd, head of Employment and Benefits Practice, will facilitate an interactive panel discussion made up of the following panelists:

- **John Brand** (recognised by Chambers and Partners as a “Senior Statesman” of South African labour law) will discuss the impact of the proposed new code of good practice on the conduct and quality of collective bargaining, and the advisory arbitration award provisions that will apply when a strike becomes violent or is no longer functional to collective bargaining.

- **Khomotso Makapane** and **Rosalind Davey**, both partners in the Bowmans’ Employment and Benefits Practice, will examine the accord on industrial action and picketing.

- **Graham Damant**, “doyen” in the field, with more than 30 years’ experience, will describe the challenges faced by the bargaining council model of collective bargaining and will assess the amendments aimed at strengthening centralised bargaining.

**Cost:** Complimentary

Please RSVP by Friday, 9 June 2017. For further information please call Buhle Nhlungulela on +27 11 669 9451.

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