

7. Night-Watchmen

The Wage Board has announced that it is investigating the wages and working conditions of night-watchmen. This means that the Wage Board will be in Cape Town soon to get evidence from nightwatchmen on their wages and other matters. The Advice Bureau will help the nightwatchmen to prepare their evidence, and has urged all nightwatchmen employed in Cape Town to go to the Advice Bureau and give them information on their wages and working conditions so that a full report can be prepared.

Many nightwatchmen have been complaining that their wages are too low - this is a good opportunity to get higher wages. The Wage Board will decide what wages are to be paid for the next three or four years, so it is important that the workers are well-prepared.

8. "R14.50" - Wage Board

Eight weeks ago, the Wage Board came to Cape Town to investigate the wages paid to unskilled workers. Fifty workers went to the Wage Board and asked that their wages be increased to a minimum of R20 a week, rising to R30 a week over 3 years. The employers asked the Wage Board to increase the minimum wages to R14.50 a week, rising to R16.00 over three years.

The Wage Board has considered the proposals made to it and has decided that the minimum wages should be increased to R14.50 immediately the determination becomes law, rising to R15.50 next year and R16.50 the year after that.

Note: The new wages proposed by the Wage Board affect only these workers:-

Building and office cleaners; bunkering (coal); delivery services (not motor bikes); demolition of buildings; excavating; grinding and packing of salt; batteries; dog and animal food; corn, glucose and starch products; gas; hessian and jute bags; tanning; preparing sites; quarrying; oil refinery; scrap metal; second-hand bottles; grease; fertiliser; shipping agencies; waste paper; watchmen.

The Wage Board has recommended the following wages for unskilled workers in the Cape (except in Durbanville and Kuils River). These recommended wages will apply after the Minister of Labour has agreed to them. They do not apply yet.

	First Year	Second Year	Thereafter
a) Daily employee (per day)	R3.00	R3.20	R3.40
b) Watchmen (per week)	R16.70	R17.80	R19.00
c) Part-time cleaner (per wk)	R7.00	R7.50	R8.00
d) Employee other than a, b, or c (per week)			
i) female	R11.60	R12.40	R13.20
ii) male (18 years or over)	R14.50	R15.50	R16.50
iii) male (under 18 years)	R10.90	R11.60	R12.40