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MEDIA STATEMENT

FAWU Condemns Excruciatingly Slow Progress of Labour Appeal Court on Crucial Worker Cases, Including South African Breweries Matter

The Food and Allied Workers' Union (FAWU) expresses its deep discontent and outright condemnation regarding the systemic delays and painfully slow progress of the Labour Appeal Court (LAC) in resolving critical worker disputes.

The ongoing, unresolved issue involving Anheuser-Busch's owned South African Breweries (SAB) and FAWU is a glaring example of this judicial paralysis. SAB was ordered by the Labour Court on 7 November 2025 to reinstate dismissed workers and halt its Section 189 restructuring process as a result of failure to disclose proper documentation and to engage in meaningful consultation. At this stage we are still awaiting a hearing date after the company applied for leave to appeal. This case, like many others, has dragged through the system for an unacceptable period, leaving thousands of workers and their families in a state of prolonged economic anxiety and legal limbo.

Justice delayed is justice denied. When the apex court for labour matters takes months—and sometimes years—to hear appeals and hand down judgments, it is ordinary workers who bear the brunt. While multinational corporations like SAB possess the endless financial resources to absorb protracted legal battles and even in some cases employ delaying tactics to stall proceedings, vulnerable workers are stripped of their livelihoods, dignity, and rights.

The current backlog and sluggish pace of the LAC undermine the very founding principles of the Labour Relations Act, which promises the speedy and efficient resolution of labour disputes. This systemic failure effectively tilts the scales of justice in favour of arrogant employers who weaponise legal delays to exhaust and bankrupt trade unions and their members.

FAWU will not sit idly by while the judicial system fails the working class. We demand immediate institutional accountability and a clear, urgent turnaround strategy from the Judge President of the Labour and Labour Appeal Courts to clear the current backlog.

We further call for an expedited hearing and finality on the SAB matter. Workers cannot feed their families on postponed court dates and reserved judgments. FAWU remains combat-ready to defend its members, and we will explore all available avenues, including mass mobilization, to ensure that the wheels of justice turn swiftly for the working class.

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