

Legal Beagles down tools, demand salary promises

LAST week the South African Parastatal and Tertiary Institutions Union (SAPTU) Legal Professionals and Administrative Staff downed tools due to salary negotiations.

"The salaries of legal professionals have been a matter of discussion between a task team comprised of the Department of Justice, the National Treasury and the Public service, including Legal Aid Board over the past few years," said SAPTU general secretary Advocate Ben Van Der Walt.

The process for better salaries began last March when members protested outside parliament.

Van Der Walt said further that: "salaries are a

major problem because, in the first place, they are too low to attract legal professionals when in competition with the private sector."

He said that despite an agreement reached between the majority of trade unions and the employer in February 2007, promises had not been kept.

Legal Aid Board Employees are demanding immediate implementation of aligned salaries for all staff.

"The LAB Administrative staff are affected by the delays and it affects their salary position as well. It is essential that the salaries for LAB Admin are negotiated to obtain parity in the Justice Cluster," said Van Der Walt.



MEMBERS of the Legal Aid Board at the Maitzberg Magistrates court.