

Negotiated Settlement to Southern Paprika/ Northern AWUNZ Dispute

On the 28 September 2011, SPL and the Union signed an agreement brokered through the Department of Labour to settle the dispute over the 13 workers made redundant on 4 October. All 13 of the workers made redundant will receive offers of permanent seasonal employment of 5-9 months per year starting on 7 November. This offer is in addition to the affected workers being given 2 weeks pay in lieu of notice, and redundancy pay of 4 weeks for the first year of service, plus 2 weeks for each subsequent year of service. The Labour Dept was satisfied that the outcome meant that the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) workers were no longer displacing Permanent Resident workers.

The deal was unanimously endorsed at a meeting of the affected workers, and the union considers the outcome to be the best one achievable in the circumstances. The union understands that all of its affected members will be taking up the Company's offer of permanent seasonal employment in November.

The RSE workers will also benefit: the union was told by the company that the small increase above the minimum wage it negotiated in April will also be paid to the RSE workers who arrive next month.

Union Organiser Mike Kyriazopoulos commented: "This proves that if you do nothing, you get nothing; but if you put up a fight – as we did – you can win something for the workers."

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