

Christmas comes early for workers

Tshwane commits to employ 1300 on a permanent basis

By **Loyiso Sidimba**

The City of Tshwane has caved in on the demands by about 1300 of its temporary employees to be hired permanently at a cost of about R182-million a year.

SA Municipal Workers Union (Samwu) Tshwane regional secretary Mpho Tladinyane told Sowetan that the employment of the 1276 contract and temporary workers was “a done deal”.

Tladinyane said there was already a draft collective bargaining agreement in place and that the municipality has

already budgeted for the absorption of the workers.

Documents seen by Sowetan show that it will cost more than R181.5-million a year for the country's biggest municipality to get contract and temporary workers onto its payroll permanently.

The hiring will be over three years and will include minimum notches of applicable posts' salary scales, Unemployment Insurance Fund contributions, leave and bonuses. The second year will see the workers access pension, group life cover and housing allowances, while in the third year medical aid benefits will be added.

A report tabled at last Thursday's council meeting shows that the municipality and unions will apply for an

exemption to the SA Local Government Bargaining Council. The implementation of the absorption will have to be completed before the end of next month, according to the report.

“The verification process of the employees eligible to be appointed on a permanent basis is finalised and the list will be discussed with organised labour before the application for exemption is lodged,” reads the report.

Tladinyane said that

Workers can have permanent jobs by next month

Mpho Tladinyane
SAMWU REGIONAL SECRETARY

Samwu would meet municipality bosses tomorrow to finalise the matter.

He said the hundreds of workers could have permanent jobs by next month.

The agreement, however, excludes expanded public works programme (EPWP) workers for now.

“We are still discussing it [permanent jobs for EPWP workers],” said Tladinyane.

Meanwhile, Samwu also secured eight months' salaries for 2000 Tshwane metro police officers who have been stranded since they concluded their probation period at the end of November.

Tshwane mayor Solly Msimanga's spokesman Samkelo Mgobozi said the matter was not political.

■ sidimbal@sowetan.co.za