

WHERE ARE OUR JOBS?



Scores of Chris Hani Baragwanath volunteers were joined by members of Black First Land First as they delivered their memorandum of grievances.

Photo by Sifiso Jimta

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Hospital workers demand permanent employment

By SIFISO JIMTA

ANGRY expanded public works programme volunteers from Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital took to the streets yesterday.

This follows the appointment of permanent workers by the hospital, despite volunteers having allegedly been promised jobs.

Dozens marched from the University of Joburg's Soweto campus to the hospital's entrance, where they handed over a memorandum of grievances.

The workers demanded that their grievances be addressed within 48 hours.

The volunteers' ranks increased when they were joined by members

of Black First Land First. Volunteer Nompumelelo Masindi told *Daily Sun* the volunteers were tired of working like slaves.

"The hospital should absorb us as per the agreement made with the unions," she said.

Nompumelelo said they were also tired of corruption.

BLF provincial secretary Siphambandla Masimula said they joined the protest because they wanted to help the volunteers stand up for their rights.

"These people have worked here for years but have never been recognised," said Masimula.

"The hospital cannot be allowed to treat our people like slaves."

The BLF handed over their own memorandum to the hospital's management.

The memorandum called for the immediate absorption of expanded public works programme workers who have been at the hospital since 2013.

They also called for the exploitation of volunteers by senior staff to come to an end.

BLF also gave the hospital 48 hours to respond to the demands, threatening to take legal action if the deadline was missed.

Hospital chairman Dr Matime Diale and department of health representative Thokozani Langa accepted the memorandums and promised to address the grievances.