

Pikitup study on full-time jobs

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PIKITUP has launched a feasibility study for full-time employment for Jozi@Work temporary workers.

The programme was launched about three years ago, offering two- to three-month contracts to workers to assist the City of Joburg with, among other things, cleaning the streets.

However, the programme was terminated last year after mayor Herman Mashaba said he discovered that most of the money was being given to “middlemen” who then “issued” jobs to the unemployed.

Since then, former Jozi@Work contract workers have embarked on a series of protests, including the trashing of streets in the CBD and refusing Pikitup trucks access into certain suburbs.

This week, Mashaba said he had held a constructive meeting with representatives of contract workers, including Extended Public Works Programme beneficiaries, to discuss the alleged non-payment of their contracts following the end of the programme.

“In addition, the meeting also addressed the possibility of creating full employment opportunities for the former temporary



IT'S A MESS: Former Jozi@Work temporary workers have trashed the Joburg CBD several times in protest at termination of contracts.

contract workers who were part of the programme,” he said.

The mayor said that under the previous administration, the Jozi@Work programme was used to benefit only those who had close political ties to the ANC elite – “denying many of our residents of fair employment opportunities”.

“I have instructed Pikitup to engage with these service providers and ensure that the matter of non-payment is resolved immediately,” he said, adding

that Pikitup provides a crucial core service to Joburg residents.

The feasibility of this would be considered subject to the operational needs of Pikitup, while guaranteeing the financial sustainability of the entity.

“As part of our implementation process, preference will be given to the previous, verified contract workers, subject to a recruitment process and assessments for applicants,” he concluded.

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