

MANENBERG

'Unfair job placing'

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Angry locals gathered at a new construction site in Manenberg on Wednesday morning to seek answers from the City of Cape Town.

They say a new development plan being rolled out in the area without involving the residents in the process.

The group also raised concerns after observing job opportunities, which include openings in the City's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), being granted to the same residents year after year.

"There are several developments in our area and this process

has led to contractors from outside Manenberg coming into our community and giving our people the low-paying jobs, whilst those not living in Manenberg are enriching themselves. We have approached the ward councillors to address these concerns which have fallen on deaf ears," says Tara September, a community activist.

"As indigenous people we continue to be marginalised in a democracy which continues to fail the people. The resources in the hands of the City belong to the people and the people should determine how these resources are to be used and how they will benefit development of the community. I don't think it is fair to have people

waiting on promised jobs from the City."

September says City opportunities are given to the same people, while desperate and willing unemployed individuals are still waiting on an uncontrolled database.

"These job opportunities and other beneficial programmes are not granted to everyone in Manenberg. The same people are always chosen, while others have been waiting between six and 11 years. We want an investigation done on this matter to see how things are run in these subcouncil offices.

"New people come and are told to put their names on the list and are given the opportunities immediately. We discovered that they are

also being interviewed by the supervisors or contractors where the subcouncil is supposed to do that. I am not sure if they have a proper database for our people in Manenberg.

"There is no proper monitoring of who is being granted jobs and who is still awaiting jobs. The subcouncil must follow up and must have a record in response to placements."

The EPWP focus on skills development and is a project used by the Western Cape government to reduce the levels of poverty and unemployment in the province.

It gives the unemployed access to temporary work.

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