

Mangaung youth demand 'their' jobs

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ABOUT 200 young people who have been part of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and Community Workers Programme (CWP) in Bloemfontein have called for the resignation of Mangaung mayor Olly Mlamleli.

They said she had failed to deliver on service delivery, particularly waste collection and also to provide jobs for young people in the metro.

Residents marched last week demanding that the municipality employ them.

They said they had been part of projects in the city and therefore should be employed.

This march followed a meeting that Mlamleli held with various representatives from different wards in Mangaung's townships, who were asking her for permanent jobs.

Scores of people from these wards said they had already worked in various governmental initiatives but there was no sign they would get permanent jobs as promised.

The marching residents were complaining that their EPWP and CWP contracts had ended and they were without jobs.

They also referred to the Batho Heroes Park project, where they used to work, asking when would the other phases of the project start because they had only worked on the first phase.

This is the second march in a space of a month whereby EPWP and CWP youth voiced their dissatisfaction about

lack of jobs.

Deputy mayor Lebohang Masoetsa accepted the memorandum of grievances from the marching residents and said the metro would go through each listed item on the memorandum, with representatives from those communities and will respond soon.

He said the municipality noted their concerns and would liaise with the national public works department, which is the custodian of that project.

Municipal spokesperson Qondile Khedama said the calls for the mayor to step down were unnecessary. He said most of the protesters did not understand how the government functions.

"The mayor does not have the luxury to hire everyone, therefore calling for her head is bit premature. We will provide feedback to the protesting residents in the next couple of weeks."

Khedama said the EPWP was a national public works programme therefore they would engage public works both nationally and provincially to see how they could resolve the problem.

"The municipality has taken note of their concerns and will liaise with the national Department of Public Works, which is the custodian of that project."

Khedama said it was impossible for the Mangaung metro to employ all people who were looking for jobs.

Last month, about 400 angry residents embarked on a protest in Batho, Mangaung.

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