

## ■ FOUL LANGUAGE

# Uproar over alleged sexist utterances

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THE ANC in Tshwane has threatened to lodge a complaint against Speaker of council Katlego Mathebe with the Commission for Gender Equality for her alleged complicity in sexist remarks by DA councillors.

ANC councillor Easter Nhlapo raised concerns against Mathebe's conduct during last Thursday's council sitting.

This was after DA councillor Katlego Makgaleng remarked that, under the former ANC-led administration in the city, women had sex with men in order to get jobs in the metro. Many women from the ANC reacted with disgust to Makgaleng's utterances.

They confronted Mathebe and asked her why she allowed sexist behaviour to prevail in council. Nhlapo said women took umbrage because Mathebe had apparently allowed such behaviour to continue unchallenged.

"It was previously perpetrated by Executive Mayor Solly Msimanga, when he talked about the Expanded Public Works Programme (Vat Alles under ANC rule).

"He mentioned that some women would no longer be used as sex objects," she said.

Nhlapo further threatened to report Mathebe to the commission for allowing "chauvinists to play over our heads".

"This is what you get if you take grasshoppers and make them politicians," she said.

Her sentiments were shared by councillors from other political parties, who condemned the derogatory words used by Makgaleng against women. The ANC and EFF called for his removal from council.

EFF caucus leader Benjamin Disolwane said Makgaleng must be called to apologise in writing to women. "Remove the gentleman because we don't want anyone who would undermine women," he added.

Mapiti Matsena of the ANC supported the call to remove him, but said his written apology must be sent to Mathebe and should be read in council next month.

DA regional leader Abel Tau said the ruling party unequivocally apologised for the utterance, saying he condemned it in the strongest possible terms. "The DA takes full responsibility. Women are royalty and that is how we look at them," he said.

In council, Mathebe reserved her right to comment on the intention by the ANC to take her to the commission. She, however, agreed that Makgaleng's foul language constituted unbecoming behaviour.