

# Hundreds of KSD staff down tools over ‘missing’ R65m

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Hundreds of angry King Sabata Dalindyebo municipality employees downed tools demanding acting municipal manager Mbulelo Sigaba explain why R65m had allegedly been paid to some workers – illegally.

Despite about 800 workers being part of Monday’s action, the municipality stressed that essential services such as electricity and refuse removal had not been affected.

The Independent Municipal and Allied Trade Union (Imatu) and the South African Municipal Workers Union (Samwu)–affiliated workers

said they wanted Sigaba to account for the “missing” millions.

Imatu acting chairperson Anam Mkile said the money was paid out to employees as part of task grade payouts.

The Dispatch reported last week that Samwu turned to the office of the public protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane to inves-

tigate the matter. Included in their list of grievances is the permanent employment of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) workers.

Samwu chairperson Lwazi Madyibi said a decision had been taken in a local labour forum that KSD would absorb EPWP workers into the municipality.

The two unions also accused KSD bosses of intimidation and threatening union shop stewards.

One of the unionists who has allegedly been targeted is Madyibi, who was issued with a letter of intent to suspend by Sigaba on Thursday last week.

He said he had been accused of being in possession of con-

fidential municipal information with the intention of using it to tarnish the image of the municipality.

Madyibi, however, dismissed this as nothing more than management trying to cover up the alleged disappearance of the R65m from municipal coffers.

Spokesperson Sonwabo Mampoza said the issue of EP-

WP workers was an ongoing process, and denied claims that HR policies were not followed in some staff appointments.

Late on Monday, Mampoza said acting municipal manager Nobuzwe Soldati had met with union leaders. But at the time of writing, the Dispatch had not been able to establish the outcome of the meeting.