

Municipality accused of corruption

Elmarine Anthony

A resident of Kayamandi and a member of the Democratic Alliance (DA) has laid a complaint about what he calls “rampant corruption” at Stellenbosch Municipality at the office of the Public Protector.

In his complaint, Fezile Gxilishe, alleges that the deputy mayor employed one of his friends as a supervisor of the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) in Kayamandi. “He did not even pass Grade 9 but is a supervisor of the EPWP programme. He earns R25 000 per month as from December 2017 and renewed his contract as from December 2018. He is even supervising personnel who have degrees and diplomas but they earn R2 500 per month, on this project.”

The name of this alleged supervisor is known to *Eikestadnuus*. Stuart Grobbelaar, Stellenbosch Municipality communications manager did not comment on whether the man in question is indeed employed by the municipality or about his

education and qualifications.

According to Fezile, the mayor also employed one of her friends at the municipality and he also alleges that the sister of the municipal manager is employed by the municipality.

According to Grobbelaar, Fezile’s allegations are “unfounded and has no other aim than to be defamatory and malicious”.

He states further: “Councillors have no powers to appoint staff members and strong administrative processes through our Human Resources Section are followed in the appointment of any staff member. Stellenbosch Municipality takes the separation of duties between the political and administrative bodies seriously as a critical foundation to good governance.”

According to Grobbelaar, the executive mayor nor the deputy mayor have ever been involved in the appointment of a municipal official and the municipal manager’s sister is also not an employee of the municipality.