

DA protests against 'sex for jobs' in Komani

SANELE JAMES

THE Democratic Alliance took to the streets of Komani earlier this week in protest over claims that people are demanding sex for jobs in the Expanded Public Works Programme.

The party launched the campaign of its premier candidate, Nqaba Banga, in Komani last year ahead of this year's national government elections.

During the party's visit last year, Banga said his party would capitalise on the ruling party's mishaps at local government.

On Monday they visited local informal settlements where most people are unemployed, while others work under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

Banga said locals advanced their old complaints and claims about "sex for jobs" in the EPWP programme.

Others raised the issue of sex in exchange for RDP houses, an old issue which was brought before the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality council after a prolonged investigation.

The investigation implicated a couple of current and some former councillors and some oth-

er officials at the local municipality.

The council kept pushing back the findings of the investigation, saying those implicated needed to be given time to state their side of the story on the investigations. But to this point, nothing has been done.

Following their visit to the informal settlements, Banga joined by DA MP, Geordin Hill-Lewis and DAWN chairperson in the Eastern Cape, Georgina Faldtman, led a picket march to the regional offices of the Department of Roads and Public Works.

"The misconduct of demanding sex from women in exchange for jobs is said to be high in this office, hence we decided picket outside their offices to show that we genuinely reject the act.

"Today we are here to restore the dignity of women and demand fair and transparent recruitment processes in the EPWP programme," she said.

Hill-Lewis added that they would soon organise a big protest march to the Enoch Mgijima Municipality offices over the claims of sex in exchange for RDP houses and that they would demand the release of the findings of the investigations on the matter.



Members of the Democratic Alliance marched in Komani recently in protest against people demanding sex for jobs in the Expanded Public Works Programme.

PHOTO:SANELE JAMES