

Acting municipal manager removed from position

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MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Fikile Xasa, confirmed that the acting municipal manager for the King Sabatha Dalindyebo Local Municipality, Mbulelo Sigaba, had been removed from his position.

Xasa was addressing workers who were protesting outside the Munitata Building, complaining about R65 million, which they believe was corruptly taken by the management of the municipality.

“I am the one who was signing (payslips) for Sigaba since we were waiting for the council to hire a new municipal manager.

“Unfortunately, I don’t have powers to remove the mayor of this municipality, Councilor Dumani Zozo, since he is employed by the African National Congress,” said Xasa.

He confirmed that Ngamela Pakade was the new municipal manager of the KSD. Pakade started his new job on Friday, February 1.

Xasa was responding to the complaints which led the workers to embark on protest action. He added that there would be a council

meeting that will be sitting on Tuesday, February 5, where the issues like the employment of workers who fall under the Expanded Public Works Programme would be discussed.

The outcomes of that meeting were not available at the time of *Mthatha Express* going to press.

“There is a task team which is investigating your complaints. I am sure within 10 days you will get the feedback,” Xasa said.

“The ANC is distancing its self from corruption and it had made it clear that members who are involved in corruption should account and answer,” he said.

The chairperson for the South African Municipal Workers’ Union (SAMWU), Lwazi Madyibi, said they had suspended the strike until they could see if their grievances had been resolved.

“At least the acting municipal manager is gone,” said Madyibi.

The acting chairperson of the Independent Municipal and Allied Trade Union (IMATU), Inam Mkile, also confirmed that the strike had been suspended. “We decided to suspend it

since Xasa came to intervene. We will wait and see the outcomes of the special council meeting. If we see that we are not happy about their resolutions then we will resume the strike,” said Mkile.



Workers from King Sabatha Dalindyebo Local Municipality listen while the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Fikile Xasa, addresses them. PHOTO: BABALWA NDLANYA