Committee appointed to address KSD municipality workers' demands

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THE King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) municipal council has appointed a multi-party committee to look into the feasibility of demands by municipal workers affiliated to South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) and the Independent Municipal and Allied Trade Union (IMATU).

The unions are demanding that the municipality permanently employ workers under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), who they say have been subjected to cheap labour conditions by the municipality for over a decade.

The decision to appoint the multi-party committee was taken during a special council meeting on February 12.

"The multi-party committee will look into the issue of permanent employment of EPWP workers, which has been one of the demands by trade unions which led to the strike by workers in the first place," said municipal spokesperson, Sonwabo Mampoza.

Mampoza said the committee had been given 30 days to conduct its work and report back to council.

The council meeting further delegated the newly appointed municipal manager, Ngamela Pakade, to speed up the process of filling the positions of chief financial officer, director for technical services and corporate services director, a process expected to be finalised within three months.

Mampoza also revealed that a team of officials from the provincial Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, sent to the municipality to investigate allegations of maladministration and misappropriation of R65 million meant for task grades reconciliation, was expected to conclude its investigation by end of February.

SAMWU chairperson in KSD municipality, Lwazi Madyibi, said the decision taken by council to appoint the multi-party committee was not something they were happy about but they would give it its space to conduct its work and would only be in a position to be happy when their demands were fully addressed.