

'Strike's bad for business'

By **ZIYANDA ZWENI**

A GROUP of hawkers is tired of chasing away flies and breathing in smelly air.

The hawkers, who sell fruit and vegetables on Mthatha's streets, want King Sabata Dalindyebo municipal workers to sort out their problems so that their strike can end.

The hawkers said the streets are filled with rubbish, including used nappies.

"We sell fruit for a living. Chasing away flies isn't part of our job," said Mildred Ntlanyana.

"We sweep away rubbish every morning. People have stopped buying from us."

One hawker said municipal workers had the right to protest if they felt they were being treated badly.

"But they must look at other ways of making their point," she said.

"We want a lasting solution to their grievances, otherwise they will take to the streets every time they have a problem."

African Hawkers Association chairwoman Thembeke Gawulekhaya said whoever is responsible for the strike must fix the problem.

"People can't buy food from us because of the filth," she said.

Mayor Dumani Zozo described the strike as hooliganism.

Municipal workers have been on strike since Monday, demanding:

- allowances
- the absorption of more than 200 expanded public works programme workers
- Zozo's removal.