

Forensic investigation team not affected by KSD strike

LUVU CAKATA

KING Sabata Dalindyabo Municipality (KSD) has moved to assure concerned stakeholders that the forensic investigation currently underway within the municipality has not been affected in any way by the latest strike by municipal workers.

Workers affiliated to the South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) and the Independent Municipal and Allied Trade Union (Imatu) have embarked on more action since April 1, accusing municipal management of dragging their feet in addressing their demands.

KSD Executive Mayor, Councillor Dumani

Zozo, has meanwhile condemned the latest strike action and what he called high level of ill-discipline among the workers and disrespecting residents by throwing rubbish within the inner city of Mthatha.

Municipal spokesperson, Sonwabo Mampozza, says the team conducting forensic investigation was still on course to finish its investigation on time as the process has not been adversely affected by the strike action.

The investigation team is made up of officials from national treasury, provincial department of cooperative governance and traditional affairs, as well as officials from audit firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

The team has been deployed to the troubled KSD municipality to conduct a forensic investigation that will mainly focus on ir-

regular expenditure emanating from diversion of over R70 million in conditional grants towards task grade payments and alleged flouting of supply chain processes in purchasing of multi-million rand municipal fleet.

Mampozza further said negotiations between the municipality and trade unions were ongoing and a special council meeting had been scheduled for Monday this week.

The council meeting was expected to receive a report from the multi-party ad hoc committee appointed by council to look into the feasibility of absorbing workers under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) on a permanent basis.

The forensic investigation team is expected to finish its work before the end of May, 2019.