

# KSD strike called off pending agreement

## LUVO CAKATA

TRADE union leaders at King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) Municipality have decided to indefinitely suspend their strike action, pending implementation of the agreement reached between them and municipal management, especially on the permanent absorption of employees under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The decision to suspend the strike followed the tabling of the ad hoc committee report on the feasibility of permanent employment of workers under the EPWP, which recommended permanent employment of more than 200 workers under the programme.

KSD South African Municipal Workers Union chairperson, Lwazi Madyibi, said, as the union they welcomed the report and its recommendations.

“We fully welcome the report as it proved our long-held suspicion that there was corruption involved in the employment of EPWP workers, as proven by the finding that about 98 workers under the programme could not be accounted for, whereas they were drawing salaries from the municipality,” said Madyibi.

Anam Mkile of the Independent Municipal and Allied Trade Union (IMATU) also wel-

comed the ad hoc committee report saying they had now signed a memorandum of understanding with the municipal manager, which commits the municipality to speedily absorb the workers, with 156 EPWP workers set to gain permanent employment before the end of the current municipal financial year on June 30.

Agreement was also reached on other matters that were contentious between unions and municipal management, including the payment of acting allowances that unions allege were unilaterally terminated by the municipality, as well as conversion of contract employment contracts to permanent status.

The unions further said they hoped ANC Eastern Cape chairperson, Oscar Mabuyane’s moves to stabilise administration in the KSD Municipality would include the recall of the sitting Executive Mayor, Councillor Dumani Zo-zo, saying there could never be permanent stability in the municipality with the current mayor at the helm.

The unions said they would not hesitate to embark on strike action again should municipal management drag its feet on the implementation of the agreement.

KSD Municipality has again apologised to all affected stakeholders for the inconvenience caused by the strike action, which started on April 1 and was officially called off on April 16.



**KSD Municipality workers were seen cleaning the Mthatha CBD after agreement was reached between unions and management to end the strike.**

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