

■ PROTEST

Workers demand permanent jobs

CHRIS NDALISO

chris.ndaliso@inl.co.za

MORE than 100 employees under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) marched to embattled eThekweni mayor Zandile Gumede's office yesterday, demanding permanent employment.

Some of the employees, who would not be named for fear of reprisals, said they wanted permanent employment for all those employed between 2014 and 2015.

"We also want the better salaries that the mayor had promised us before. It was around 2017 when she told us that even though what we were earning was only a little, at least we were taking something home to our families, and she said that the salaries would improve in time.

"We want her and her team to receive our grievances, and should they fail to attend to them, we will find another way of grabbing her attention," said one employee.

This was not the first time that the temporary employees, employed under the national government's initiative, had demanded permanent employment and better salaries from the municipality.

In October last year, they protested at the gate of the Alice Street depot, making the same demand.

At the time, they claimed that the city had absorbed 13 000 EPWP work-

ers into different units of the city.

They complained about their "meagre" R2000 to R3100 salaries while working under appalling conditions as cleaners.

Mthunzi Gumede, the mayor's spokesperson, said there was no policy that EPWP workers should be made permanent, but individuals were encouraged to apply for positions advertised in the public and private sectors.

"EPWP is part of our poverty alleviation programmes. We accepted their concerns and we will look at and interrogate them.

"The mayor's office will only give an official response to these once all these concerns are understood," Gumede said.

He added that the grievances on the list included being given first preference when vacancies became available, and that councillors not interfere with the employment process.

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Anonymous
EPWP EMPLOYEE