

Nehawu wins unfair dismissal case

THE National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) has won a case of unfair dismissal of its members at the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI).

Trouble started when the department failed to renew the workers' contracts, as had been the case in previous years. The workers were long-time employees of the department.

"In January 2020, these workers had a reasonable expectation that they would receive letters confirming further extensions of the contract as per practice. However, they were told that there would not be any contract renewals and this was notwithstanding the fact that they had not been served with notices for termination," Nehawu general-secretary Zola Saphetha said.

It is still not clear when the workers will be back at work and how many were affected by the dismissals.

"Nehawu will now focus on forcing the implementation of the award and ensure all these workers are reinstated without any fail. We will intensify our fight against employers who flout rules and treat workers with sheer disregard. This win for workers proves they have a giant and fighting union on their side which is preoccupied with defending their rights against intransigent employers," Saphetha said.

The union had declared an unfair dismissal dispute which was filed with the Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council and a conciliation hearing was set down for March 2020.

A spokesperson for the department of Public Works and Infrastructure Zara Nicholson was not available for comment. | **ITUMELENG MAFISA**