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# EPWP workers clash with department over contract



**MAHIKENG MAIL-MAHIKENG:** Following the successful EPWP summit and awards on Saturday, in Klerksdorp, EPWP employees of Itsoseng Brick Making Plant and Itirele participants in Mahikeng on Monday protested outside the Department of Public Works and Roads following numerous dissatisfactions about the EPWP ending after three months of being instead of three years as stipulated on their contracts.

The employees through memorandum demanded that the department renew their contracts; review ages of participants, payments for public holidays, back payments for two years and nine months after the department increased their stipend with R40.00 and contribution towards UIF as stipulated in their contract that was read to them without keeping any copies. The employees added that it was not the first making this demands as they

have previous presented them before the former Administrator, Moremi. Speaking to the angry employees outside the Departmental said "We have a serious challenge with the department because it not the first coming here to raise our concerns. We

are verbally told that our contract is ending and new people are getting in while are still on contract. We have made commitments, debts and family responsibilities that depended on what we received from EPWP and yet we just told the contracted has ended. We demand the department to give us straight answers on when will they pay us". The contract is expected to end on July 31 many of these employees might find themselves unemployed. Many of

community household especially in villages had an EPWP employee whom their family depended on with the stipend they receive monthly since their contracted were coming to end. The Departmental HoD, Moses Kgantsi said he was going to respond to the workers memorandum with on July 15th and involve other stakeholders because he was not alone in the programme so that they can provide the employees with answers.

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## North West crime stats increase

**MAHIKENG MAIL-MAHIKENG:** North west fourth Quarter Crime Statistics of 2023 has outlined Rustenburg in the Bojanala District to have recorded the highest number of reported crime incidents in the province and overall number seven