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Unrest about workers getting “preference”

Lentswe, Klerksdorp - The Matlosana Municipality’s public works programme must be managed better, the FF Plus said after chaos broke out again at the municipal offices when disgruntled residents rushed in and demanded work.

The EPWP program is supposed to complement existing municipal services and has been mired in controversy for years due to allegations of nepotism and the unfair favouring of certain residential areas’ residents by officials and councillors.

Cllr Joshua Griffen (FF Plus) said the program as it is currently applied does not add any real value to service delivery in the mu-

nicipality.

“Closer investigation by the FF Plus showed that, among other things, no proper project planning is done before the implementation of programs.

“Government directives are also not followed. Poor communication and lack of public participation in the prioritization of projects lead to unrealistic expectations for jobs,” he says.

The DA also objected to the year-long contract in which 400 people were appointed as general workers at a cost of R40.8 million.

“These appointments are just another example of cadre deployment and state capture. We have

many questions about this, especially since there was no budget for it at all in the financial year, which means that it is once again unauthorized expenditure,” says Cllr Johannes le Grange.

He says the DA will ask the public protector’s office to investigate the appointment of the workers as it indicates that public resources are being used to benefit the ANC’s political agenda.

“The municipality cannot afford it, especially when we look at what we owe Eskom and Midvaal.

“It was said that the municipality must cut costs to pay debts, but then it was decided to appoint ANC cadres.”