



Publication: Daily News - Main
Title: Councillors mull EPWP contract extensions
Publish date: 14 Jul 2023
Page: 3

Reach: 8283
AVE: R 16923.98
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ETHEKWINI Municipality EFF councillors demanded that the EPWP workers' wages must be increased to R6 000 monthly. The councillors also called for the workers to be employed on a permanent basis.
| STEVEN MAKHANYA

EMPLOYMENT

Councillors mull EPWP contract extensions

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THE CITY has sought to extend contracts entered into with the beneficiaries under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), during the 2022/23 financial year.

This was revealed during the City's full council sitting at the ICC yesterday.

The councillors said this was to allow the city manager to enter into and sign a new Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, in order to receive the incentive grant for the EPWP operations during the 2023/24 financial year.

EFF councillor Nhlanhla Motseke asked the council why the City had not taken control of this programme instead of giving it contractors. He said that most of the workers found themselves having to "beg" for these jobs, which are paying them little.

He made a suggestion that a minimum amount of R6 000 be paid to them as most of these workers were breadwinners.

EThekwinini mayor Mxolisi Kaunda said the City was determined to ensure that this programme was extended.

"We know that most of our people lack job opportunities, therefore the issue of employing the EPWP workers on a permanent basis will be looked into," Kaunda stressed.

He said there was a need to conduct awareness campaigns to inform the citizens about all social relief packages, including assistance to vulnerable groups in terms of the indigent policy.

Councillors also appealed for engagements to be resuscitated between provincial departments of education and public works to consider repairs to water bursts in Section 21 schools and payments for municipal services.

The council stated that the reduced electricity revenue was due to customers opting for alternative energy sources; and that water losses were also due to the unqualified and unmeasured water supplied through standpipes and ablution facilities.

"The revenue collection will be intensified, including disconnection of services in crowded buildings to force property owners to come forward and make necessary payment arrangements."

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