



Publication: Herald, The - Main

Title: Traffic officer 'reserves' still waiting for December and January pay

Publish date: 26 Jan 2023

Page: 4

Reach: 17067

AVE: R 8323.68

Author: Staff Reporter

He said the department had institutions.

As leader of the city, we are

Traffic officer 'reserves' still waiting for December and January pay

Yolanda Palezweni
palezweniy@theherald.co.za

About 60 Nelson Mandela Bay traffic officers who graduated in 2021 have not been paid their December and January stipends after being deployed to assist with the municipality's festive season plan.

The officers were first placed on a six-month rotational expanded public works programme (EPWP) despite promises of full-time employment after graduating.

They would have received a R6,500 stipend since December 2021 when it was their turn to take part in the rotational programme, while being tasked with the work of full-time officers.

However, leading up to the festive season, they signed a

three-month contract with the metro to assist the traffic department and metro police.

An officer, who declined to be named, said the metro had failed to provide them with equipment, including uniforms.

Instead, he said they were told to borrow older uniforms from traffic officers while the metro sourced funding.

"When we graduated we were promised placement within the metro's traffic department, but it's over a year, and we have been kept in this programme."

He said when they signed the three-month contracts in December they were split into two groups — one with the metro police and the other with the traffic department.

"We were stationed to work

in Summerstrand. We were constantly confronted with dangerous situations, and relied on the backup of permanent officers."

He said they were given no equipment, including weapons to defend themselves.

"We were told in December we would be back paid in January but this did not happen."

"We are desperate for work and passionate about our jobs so have decided to continue working."

Another officer said they had to rely on word of mouth for updates on their payments.

"We don't know if we will ever be paid or permanently absorbed by the metro."

Safety and security political head Lawrence Troon referred to the officers as "reserves" and confirmed they were part of

WORKING FOR FREE: More than 60 Bay traffic officers who recently graduated, have not been paid for December and January Picture: EUGENE COETZEE



the expanded public works programme (EPWP) participatory project.

He said the commitment was and always had been to permanently employ all the traffic graduates.

"The nonpayment of any participant is a matter of concern. Any nonpayment should have been reported to their supervisors," he said.

Troon said the January payments were on track.

"It must be noted that the project is ongoing and that all efforts are being explored to find permanent employment."

Page 1 of 1