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# EPWP workers and rangers not happy with post office's service

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Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Chris Hani District workers and rangers under the department of Transport spent two weeks queuing outside the Komani Post Office for their salaries and not being attended to.

These employees are complaining about the Komani Post Office's inhumane services.

A ranger Mntumni Ma-Awu from Lesseyton said as rangers their problem is with the Post Office as they had spent weeks without receiving their salaries.

"We keep on getting promises that we will receive our money but we have not received it," he said.

He added that they had a problem with returning home empty handed which complicated their lives as some even had borrowed transport money to come to Komani.

"Some of the people including elderly women end up sleeping outside the post office building waiting for their money and they do not have sufficient means to travel from their villages or townships to the post office," he said.

The angry crowd which protested outside the post office on Tuesday said they had nowhere safe to sleep during the night so they resorted to sitting around a fire to beat the cold Komani weather.

"When we arrived this morning we were told to wait as the money was supposed to arrive at 12 noon but just before 12 they told us that there was no money and that we must come back on Friday.

"We are in dismay and ask for the government's intervention because one day



**DISSATISFIED:** Protesters singing outside the Komani Post Office after they were told there's no money. *Picture: UVIWE JARA*

someone will die here because of pushing and stepping on each other."

"Some of the people who sleep outside the post office are people who are on treatment. While sleeping outside the post office they miss taking their medication which poses a health risk to their wellbeing,"

he said.

An EPWP worker who asked to remain anonymous said: "We are receiving R800 but we need to bribe someone who works at the police office with R20 to get inside. On Thursday last week we were told that a transformer caught fire and we could not get paid."

She reiterated that people had been sleeping outside with hopes of receiving their money.

When The Rep went inside the post office to enquire about the issues raised by the complainants, they were told that the manager went to the township.  
Eastern Cape Department of

Transport spokesperson, Unathi Binqose said: We had signed a contract with the South African Post Office to pay these employees. The contract was signed when the Post Office had no problems which is currently not the case."

When asked about the process of changing payment for

these workers, Binqose said they are reviewing the contract with the post office and they are in the process of making payments directly to the employees' personal bank accounts.

The department of public works had not responded to the media enquiry sent to them by the time of going to print.