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Author: Staff Reporter

DA Elias Motsoaledi advocates for employment of disabled people

The DA in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality has received strong criticism regarding the institution's lack of prioritisation of employment of people living with disabilities.

On April 17, the DA announced that it had written to Municipal Manager Mathope Mohlala to categorise the recruitment of persons living with disabilities and further provide comprehensive information on the hiring statistics of the municipality.

The party cited that the municipality has more than 400 permanent staff, but none of those have disabilities.

According to the DA, the Community Works Programme (CWP) employs more than 1080 people, none with disabilities.

DA Councillor Sipho Mmaboko indicated that the Expanded Public Works Programme has hired an extra 470 people, also, none with disabilities.

Clr Mmaboko said the municipality recently provided work to a Disability Coordinator without advertising the position, "The municipality missed yet another opportunity to empower disabled people by appointing a person with a disability who is familiar with daily challenges. The continued disregard of people with disabilities in the labour market is unfortunate and unacceptable. People living with disabilities must be employed based on their capability and skill set. We celebrated Human Rights Month in March and Freedom Month now in April, but people with disabilities in the municipality are still largely excluded from the labour market and



The Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality offices.

economy. The municipality has also failed to provide effective support systems for disabled individuals," he said.

He concluded that the DA is committed to ensuring the integration of people living with disabilities into the employment sector to broaden their economic opportunities. The ANC-led municipality's failure to empower persons living with disabilities remains concerning.

Simon Makua, municipal spokesperson, responded that the institution has noted with concern the media statement issued by Councillor Mmaboko alleging that the municipality has not prioritised the employment of disabled persons.

In terms of the employment equity

plan, the organisation has employed 60 disabled people, including CWP, EPWP and permanent municipal employees.

"The municipal recruitment process is open to all people, including those living with disabilities. The municipality firmly believes in giving everyone a fair opportunity in employment and is committed to building a municipality that belongs to all, where people have equal access to opportunities. The current Disability Coordinator is an official who is temporarily seconded to run and facilitate that unit for the interest of people living with disabilities. Shortly, the municipality will look at filling the vacancy with a disabled person," remarked Makua.