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Backlash against Bojanala municipality MMC over allegations

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The ANC in North West has allegedly moved swiftly to suspend Winnie Sono, the MMC for Treasury in the Bojanala district municipality amid explosive allegations that she abused Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) workers for personal gain.

Sono, a former MMC for special projects, allegedly used EPWP workers to clean and maintain her private home in Lebotlwane,

while coercing the workers to pay for ANC membership cards and fuel contributions.

The EPWP is a government initiative that creates temporary jobs for unemployed and poor people for public benefit such as cleaning parks and schools.

Sono allegedly used EPWP workers for chores at her private residence. They were made to clear rubble and wash the windows of her house.

Many were paid R1 800 a month, from which Sono allegedly deducted R40 for ANC

membership and R200 for fuel for her car.

Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Dean Macpherson has ordered an urgent investigation into the scandal.

The allegations sparked outrage within ANC structures and across civil society.

According to sources in the party's provincial executive committee, Sono was suspended with immediate effect pending an internal investigation and the party leadership in the province vowed to take "decisive action" if

misconduct was proven.

An ANC caucus member said the decision to suspend Sono was discussed during a presentation to the caucus by party leadership last week.

"The ANC provincial leadership confirmed an internal investigation is underway, and that Sono will remain suspended pending its outcome," said the member.

"The feeling was that the ANC cannot afford to be associated with conduct that undermines the dignity of our people. This

matter will be dealt with swiftly."

Insiders say the party is preparing to appoint Andries Monaheng, the former mayor of Moretele local municipality, to replace Sono.

"Monaheng is well regarded for his administrative experience and community engagement record," the source said.

Sono could not be reached for comment, along with Tumelo Maruping, ANC spokesperson in the province, and Bojanala district municipality speaker Lucky Madiba.