

ANC DEFENDS MAHLAKU

March 1, 2013

The ANC in the Fezile Dabi Region has vowed to defend Brutus Mahlaku from attacks by the South African Municipal Workers Union (Samwu) which wants him removed from the executive mayorship of the Metsimaholo Local municipality. The municipality is made up of Sasolburg, Oranjeville and Deneysville.

ANC regional secretary, Moshe Tladi, said Mahlaku has fully implemented the programmes of the ruling party in the municipality. Tladi said the ANC has no plans to axe Mahlaku.

“The executive mayor Themba Mahlaku remains relevant and supportive to all progressive structures within Metsimaholo. The ANC remains confident in the leadership of the executive mayor and the audit report is testimony to that effect. There is no doubt in the leadership of the executive mayor, so the ANC is behind and supports the executive mayor,” said Tladi.

He added that ANC deployed Mahlaku to the position because it trusted his leadership abilities and skills.

“Executive mayor Themba Mahlaku has been given the responsibility to lead the Metsimaholo Local Municipality and the residents by the ANC as the majority party in the council. All political office bearers are placed by the ruling party. The executive mayor has the full support of the ANC.”

Tladi lashed out at Samwu members at the municipality who hurled insults at Mahlaku and the municipality management.

He said SAMWU is not a political party but a labour union whose interests lie with the welfare of workers and not deciding who leads a municipality.

“SAMWU is a union that represents workers and advances and protects the interests of those workers. The issue of the mayor is not in any way a labour matter, so we will continue to engage SAMWU as our sister union,” said Tladi.

However, Tladi indicated that SAMWU has a right to raise concerns, but needs to engage with the ANC first on issues related to its deployed cadres. He said the ANC in the Fezile Dabi region will hold a bilateral meeting with the SAMWU leadership in the region to iron out differences between the two parties.

“SAMWU has the right to strike as long that is in line with relevant laws that govern the labour matters. It is within their right to strike, although we have a platform to engage.”

Tladi told The Weekly that Mahlaku cannot be blamed for the administrative bungling which led to the attachment of the municipality’s furniture and assets after it failed to pay a service province. He said the municipal manager will handle the matter, as it his duty to protect the interests of the municipality.

“Mr (Steven) Molala, the municipal manager, is handling the attachment of movable assets and we are convinced that he will resolve the matter amicably with all affected parties.”

Workers also accused Mahlaku of withholding (unmentioned) programmes that are supposed to be implemented, and of being a puppet of undisclosed people outside the municipality.

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The workers, who were mostly from essential services, downed their tools last week Wednesday and called for a management meeting with Molala.

[Source: www.theweekly.co.za]