

## METSIMAHOLO WORKERS RETURN TO WORK

March 8, 2013

Workers at Metsimaholo Local municipality in Sasolburg returned to work this week after abandoning their posts for two straight weeks.

Municipal spokesperson, Gino Alberts, confirmed that the workers have indeed returned to work and are satisfied with the agreement they have reached with the municipality management. "Workers have returned to work. They started yesterday to be active on their duties."

All of the essential services such as refuse removal came to a scratching halt when workers decided to down tools and called for the changes in their condition of employment. They accused the municipality's management of nepotism and favouritism.

Local Samwu secretary, Sandla Mahlathi, said workers have returned to work after reaching an agreement with the management. "Our members have returned to their work and we are happy that management came to us and heard from workers themselves before they could agree to the grievances we tabled to them. We would like to apologise to the community for the inconvenience on behalf of all our members.

"We are to settle some issues with management to ensure that our workers continue to work productively in the future. Members found the agreement with the employer better and will review it in the future. We are going to review the conduct of the management to check whether the employer will breach the agreement signed," said Mahlathi.

Workers accused senior managers at the municipality of earning exorbitant salaries. "Our managers earn too much for nothing but we the people who perform core functions of the municipality earn peanuts. We are the ones who provide services but someone with PA and juniors is sitting behind the desk and is getting huge pay at the end of the month without performing at all. We say gone are the days when we used to keep quite even when we see things falling apart," said another worker who only introduced herself as Sesi.

Municipal manager, Steven Molala, slammed workers' allegations of favouritism and nepotism against management as untrue. According to Molala, workers want the municipality to ban the public vacant posts adverts and advertise them internally.

"That is illegal, we are guided by National guidelines policies and it is everybody's right to apply for a position and if we place it as an internal post, who is going to account if we do not have candidate meeting the requirements of the position?

"However we will interact with our Council on the issue of promotion policy which we agree it does not give us a direction on how to conduct promotions in the municipality," said Molala.

Local resident, Mohale Mosito, is livid about the closure of municipal offices due to the strike. "I came here hoping to get help from last week but there were no workers to help me, it's only today I managed to get what I wanted. We have a radio station. The municipality was supposed to use to announce the closure of offices."

[Source: [www.theweekly.co.za](http://www.theweekly.co.za)]