

## MOQHAKA WORKERS STAGE WILDCAT STRIKE

8 October 2012



**KROONSTAD** – Municipal workers here on Monday, October 1 staged a wildcat strike pressing for the resignation of both the mayor and the municipal manger.

The workers – who are affiliated to the South African Municipal Workers Union (Samwu) and independent Municipal and Allied Trade Union (Imatu) – said they had been driven to boycott work by unclear promotion procedures and called for transparency in the municipality.

Although the controversy-riven Moqhaka Local Municipality (MLM) condemned the workers' decision to down tools as an illegal job action, workers counter-claimed that the municipality had ignored their grievances for too long.

Some of the workers who asked for their names to be withheld said they had been compelled to stage a work stoppage to force management to clarify promotion procedures.

“There are no promotions here. We work hard but our efforts are not being recognised,” one of the strikers complained.

Another one added: “We are pleading with the mayor and municipal manager to vacate their office swith immediate effect. They are promoting only their close allies without following laid down procedures.”

When Public Eye arrived at the municipality building on Monday workers had abandoned the protest but sources close to the temporary stand-off, revealed that workers had decided to return to work and embark on a ‘go slow’. “We have decided on a ‘go slow’ and we have left our leaders to meet with the MM,” he said.

Communication officer Mandisa Titi confirmed the strike. “This morning; (Monday, October 1) a few workers from the ranks of SAMWU and IMATU, abandoned their duties and embarked on a spontaneous, unprotected and therefore illegal strike,” she said

“As is the nature of illegal industrial action, the (legal) required procedure was not followed resulting in management not being aware as to the reasons for such drastic action.”

She said the municipality was considering taking measures against all workers who participated in the unprotected strike. “In the interest of honouring our service delivery mandate to the communities who might be negatively affected by this action, management has issued an ultimatum urging those involved to resume their duties with immediate effect or face possible corrective or disciplinary action. Strikers have further been advised that an illegal strike attracts a ‘no work no pay principle’.”

Mayor Jihad Mohapi, in a statement said he had called on the parties to negotiate legally with related offices. Mohapi apologised to the communities of Moqhaka for encountering problems of service delivering during the protest.

“As much as we respect the constitutional right of workers to engage in industrial action, we expect this right to be exercised with the respect, responsibility and discipline. It is unfortunate that over and above embarking on an illegal strike action, these workers decided to burn tyres and thus endangering life and property.”

[Source: [www.publiceyenews.com](http://www.publiceyenews.com)]