

# Striking 10111 workers on march over pay

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"ON YOUR marks, get set, we are ready for Level 7."

This was the chant of more than 100 employees of the 10111 emergency call centre as they marched to the Union Buildings to hand over a memorandum with demands.

The march was part of the ongoing fight to have their salary upgraded to Level 7 from Level 5, which will mean a stipend of more than R4 000 a month.

The workers said they wanted to be on the same level as other call centre workers such as those at the Department of Home Affairs, the SA Social Security Agency, SA Revenue Services and the Presidential Hotline, among others.

The march was led by deputy president of the South African Police Union Tumelo Mogodiseng and general secretary of the SA Federation of Trade Unions Zwelinzima Vavi. The workers have been on strike since July 18.

Vavi said he did not understand



Some of the 10111 employees who marched to the Union Buildings to hand over a memorandum of demands. PICTURE: OUPA MOKOENA/ANA

why workers had to keep on striking to be heard. The workers deserved an increase as they were working hard, he said.

The workers' demand was simple and did not require them going on a strike, he said. "It is a very simple demand and it does not require us to

go on the strike in the first place yet we are now almost three months on a strike," he said.

"The 10111 workers are being treated differently from other call centres within the government. This must be rectified because you are all working hard like they are."

He lambasted Police Minister Fikile Mbalula and Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa for ignoring the workers' demands.

"We are now paying the price of putting these clowns in power who are more interested in being popular on social media instead of solving the problems of workers," he said.

"We have been to Mbalula's door; he listened and asked for evidence and leadership provided him with it.

"If you were to count the tweets he has been writing they are above the actions he promised that have come to zero, but we make a call to you Mbalula, please listen to the workers.

"The other person we hope could listen to us is Ramaphosa... He did not even respond or acknowledge the letter and, worst of all, to act on the letter."

The workers would not backing down until they were heard, Vavi said. "We will pursue this demand until someone listens."

The memo was accepted by Calvin Hubble from the Presidency, who assured them they would respond within seven days.

10111 staff  
march to JZ

**Lesetsega Lekona**

Employees of the police's 10111 emergency call centre took their grievances to the president when they marched to the Union Buildings yesterday.

About 200 workers affiliated to the South African Policing Union (Sapu) and labour federation South African Federation of Trade Unions (Safu) gathered at the Pretoria Art Museum to demand a salary upgrade that matches other government call centre workers.

The salary upgrades were recommended in 2013 by a task team set up by former police commissioner Bhekisisa Mkhize, who instructed the team to benchmark the workers' salary level against departments such as home affairs, SA Social Security Agency, SA Revenue Service, Crimestop and the Presidential hotline.

But four years later, the workers still have not received their demand of a level 7 annual wage of R226 211. The call centre workers marched in June to Police Minister Fikile Mbalula's office, giving him two weeks to positively respond to their demands.

"But no progress has been made and the SAPU members of 10111, supported by Safu, were left with no alternative but to take strike action.

"Ever since the strike commenced, Sapu and Safu have done everything to engage with authorities in an attempt to resolve the strike," said the Sapu deputy president, Tumelo Mogodiseng.

Reading from the memorandum addressed to President Jacob Zuma, Mogodiseng said the workers understood the implications of the strike and sympathised with the public, who were deprived of a vital public service.

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**Baby thrown to ground, killed**

A 26-YEAR-old man was arrested for allegedly smashing his 4-month-old son on the ground, killing him instantly in Khuma near Stilfontein, North West police said yesterday.

"According to information, the suspect had an argument with his girlfriend when he grabbed the baby and threw him to the ground," said spokesperson Lieutenant-Colonel Pelonomi Makau.

The suspect was arrested and was due to appear in the Stilfontein Magistrate's Court today, facing a

charge of murder. The North West Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Baile Motswenyane, described the incident as horrific.

"We are saddened by this and once more would like to urge members of the community, including those who are in domestic relationships, to do their best to resolve their differences amicably rather than resorting to violence that sometimes affects innocent people such as in this tragic case," said Motswenyane. - ANA

## Dad held for murder

ELFAS TORERAI

A 26-YEAR-OLD man who allegedly murdered his four-month-old baby will appear in the Stilfontein Magistrate's Court this morning.

The murder took place on Sunday after the man reportedly had a heated argument with his girlfriend in Khuma, near Stilfontein.

North West police spokesperson, Lt-Col Pelonomi Makau said the suspect allegedly grabbed the baby and threw it to the ground.

The baby died on impact owing to the injuries suffered. The man was arrested and charged with murder.

North West police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane condemned the incident, saying it was distressing and horrific.

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Positive

## Dad in court for killing his baby

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