



City Property accused of not paying cleaners

Tshegofatso Ngobeni

More than 140 cleaners caused mayhem earlier this week when they littered the streets of Sunnyside after not receiving their salaries last week.

City Improvement District CEO of Kerk Street and Sunnyside, Joshua Ngonyama said workers were only paid half their salaries. The money received by property owners paying levies was short because City Property had failed to pay their levies.

"We paid workers half of their salaries on Tuesday and their salaries were due last week Saturday already. We are short of R159 000 which ought to be paid by City Property for workers to receive their full salaries," said Ngonyama.

He emphasised that this was the first

time something like this had occurred.

The workers are responsible for cleaning Madiba, Stanza Bopape, Pretorius, Schoeman and Paul Kruger streets.

General workers, cleaners and managers were unpaid. "The Kerk Street CID and Esselen Street CID will be negotiating with both workers' unions and general workers to resolve the impasse. We support the idea to ensure that all levies must in future be received in time to

ensure that workers are paid on time," said Ngonyama. City Property spokesperson Lize Nel said City Property was not responsible for paying of salaries to any of the workers as they were employed by Kerk Street CID or Esselen Street CID which were separate entities.

"City Property administration has raised various concerns via its attorneys,

"We are short of R159 000 which ought to be paid by City Property ..."



A woman cleaner voicing her anger. **Photos: Ron Sibiya**

Hogan Lovells (forensic division) regarding the ongoing legality of both the Kerk Street and Esselen Street CIDs. They still have not received sufficient documentation proving the legal requirements determined by the prevailing legislation have been met," said Nel.

She added that City Property requested financial information from Kerk Street and Esselen Street CIDs to determine

their financial status.

"We received some of these documents after our lawyers got involved and we are busy interrogating that key financial information," she said.

"We gave them our intention to withhold payment as of July, because our concerns were not addressed and they are not complying with legislation," Nel said.



Protesting city cleaners (above and on the right) caused mayhem in Sunnyside last week as they made no bones about their disgust at receiving only half of their salaries.

