

Emergency line crisis

South Africans' emergency lifeline - the 24-hour 10111 crime-reporting emergency call centre - might collapse when thousands of its employees march on police headquarters in Pretoria today [29 August 2013].



Emergency control centres and police stations could grind to a halt as over 5,000 SAPS administrative personnel converge on the police HQ; the march has been organised by the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union.

There were nationwide marches by police administrative staff in May.

This march, according to Popcru, is over police management's refusal to implement a 2011 Safety and Security Sectoral Bargaining Council agreement, which was about the incorporation of police administrative staff into the SAPS, which would improve their pay markedly. The agreement could, for example, catapult clerks into the same salary bracket as police constables, but to put it into effect the SAPS would have to spend R900m a year more on salaries.

Police management has told the union it does not have that kind of money.

If the agreement is signed, each administrative staff member would earn about R20,000 more annually.

Of Popcru's members, 48,000 are administrative.

Popcru spokesman Theto Mahlakoana said thousands of his union's members were converging on Pretoria from across the country.

Comment from the police could not be obtained at the time of going to print.

More strikes in the offing

The National Union of Metalworkers of SA will meet today to decide on the action to be taken in light of the reports it has received from bargaining councils.

Workers that would be affected if the union called for a strike would be those at petrol stations, automotive retailers, panel-beaters, car and spare parts businesses, fitment workshops, and truck body and trailer building concerns.

Wage negotiations in these sectors began in May and last month employers failed to reach an agreement with the unions. Numsa is demanding a R3-an-hour increase across the board.

Numsa is also involved in a strike in automotive manufacturing, in which 30,000 workers have downed tools since last week.

At a special meeting of the central committee of Numsa in Johannesburg tomorrow, the union will consider feedback from its members and decide on the revised offer put forward by employers, believed to be a 10% wages increase.

Numsa is demanding a 14% increase from car manufacturers, which have been losing R600m a day since the strike began.

The SA Airways strike entered its second day on Tuesday with SAA making a revised offer of 7%, but the SA Transport and Allied Workers' Union refused to budge on its demand for a 12% wage increase.

Source: The Times, via I-Net Bridge

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>