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Masvingo residents demonstrate against mayor, town clerk

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MASVINGO – Tens of residents marched through the streets of Masvingo on Tuesday morning demanding the resignation of Mayor Hurbet Fidze and Town Clerk Adolf Gusha who they accused of corruption in the distribution of a \$10 000 loan package donated to the city by the Germany twin city of Kemen.

The Mirror understands that the City of Kemen donated the \$10 000 under a twinning programme with the City of Masvingo and the amount was to be given out to residents as loans for them to start business projects.

The demonstrators said there was no report as to what happened to those funds.

Masvingo Residents Trust leader Prosper Tiringindi who led the demonstration said that as residents they were demanding an audit and clarity in the manner the funds were handled since they were handed over to council in

2013.

However, Gusha dismissed the corruption allegations when contacted by The Mirror for a comment and said residents will get the loans if the funds are still available.

He however, said distribution of the funds was not being carried out by council but by an organisation called Zambuko Trust.

"It is high time that council leadership is held accountable for their actions. We have for a long time been taken as dim wits and we are now demanding a flat figure of \$500 per person" said Tiringindi.

The demonstrators besieged the town clerk's offices at the Civic Centre and then marched to Zambuko Trust.

"This is also news to me, the funds are well managed and those stories you heard are mere fabrications.

This program has been going on for a while and if the loans are still available the residents will surely get them" said Gusha.

Contrary to what Gusha said however, a Zambuko Trust employee who was confronted by the angry demonstrators said loans were given to only those who brought recommendation letters from council.

The residents complained that they were referred from one office to another each time they wanted to source those funds.

Part of the petition read "MRT have since discovered that this loan facil-



Masvingo residents demonstrating at The Civic Centre.

ity has been kept secret and was being abused by senior council officials all along".

"They think we are naïve and that we do not know what goes on behind their closed doors. Well today they

have surely been taken by surprise and we are not going to rest until we obtain those loans which we are entitled to," said one of the disgruntled residents, Elizabeth Manavire.

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