

The looting-spree in Pietermaritzburg moved to warehouse for bulk suppliers of goods yesterday.  
PHOTO: TRAFFICSA

# The Witness



## DESTROYED!

■ Food desperation begins PAGE 3 ... ■ as farmers throw away milk PAGE 2  
■ Mayor: 'Shut down the roadblocks' PAGE 3

### SIYAMTANDA CAPA

Several of Pietermaritzburg's shopping centres are in complete ruin.

Burnt tyres, rocks, empty boxes, shopping trolleys and litter lay strewn in the City's streets, while the body of a man is rotting away at an entrance to Brookside Mall.

This is what has been left in Pietermaritzburg after days of unrest.

A cloud of smoke lay across Pietermaritzburg yesterday morning after more stores were looted and a shopping centre's set alight on Monday night.

The CBD has been completely trashed, businesses and large retailers are a shell of what they used to be, with broken windows and nothing left to sell.

Sporadic fires continue breaking out in parts of the City. Looters were still making their way to see what else they could find at Brookside Mall yesterday morning. Many left the mall empty-handed.

A group rummaged through shoes in the front of a shoe store, trying to match pairs of shoes. Some were frustrated when they did not manage to do so. Not far from them, a man was covered in a red blanket — apparently dead since Monday. He was allegedly

electrocuted when the looters tried to break into the mall.

"This man who died yesterday is still laying here ever since," one woman said nonchalantly as she carried searching for whatever else she could take from the few items left in Brookside Mall.

Yesterday evening the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) said the sporadic criminal acts had put strain on an over-stretched police workforce. The directorate said this meant IPID investigators were not able to attend to crime scenes or reach the bodies of those deceased in areas where the unrest has broken out.

The Brookside Mall was set alight on Monday morning after it was hit by looters. The Checkers store was left completely gutted in the blaze while the rest of the stores remained mostly intact.

When *The Witness* arrived at Southgate Shopping Centre to assess and document what had been lost, those who were looting chased the team away and wanted no evidence of their crime captured.

According to people who were present, the chaos started on Monday evening. Looting also continued well into the night at Campsdrift Park, which houses Makro and China Mall.

The area was still congested yesterday, with very little space to move.

Msunduzi mayor Mzimkhulu Thebolla said he was reluctant to advise people to go back to work or go to town this week, "What is left for people to come to town to do?" asked Thebolla.

"What we need to do now is to see what we can do to recover what remains and defend the malls and businesses that have not been hit.

"We have to do this not just for the sake of businesses but for the sake of the people because after this we will all face extreme hardship," said Thebolla.

He said he was more concerned that people who were seen looting are people who were previously disadvantaged.

"These are the very same people who will feel the brunt of this for a very long time. "We will not recover from this in two days. People must try to stay at home ... and stay safe," said Thebolla.

He added that the past two days had been exhausting. "We haven't been able to sleep.

"I am just exhausted. The past two days were just difficult," said the mayor.

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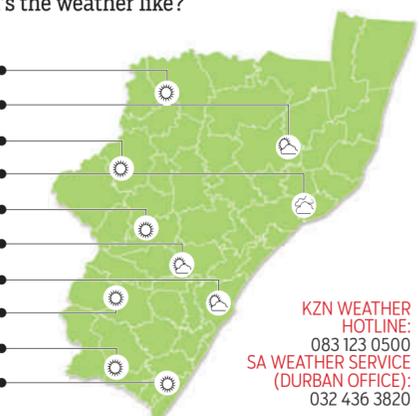
ABOVE: Checkers Hyper at Brookside Mall drenched in water after firefighters put of the flames. LEFT: Armed SANDF troops walk through the CBD yesterday. PHOTOS: NASH NARRANDES



**FIRST QUARTER:** July 17  
**FULL MOON:** July 24  
**LAST QUARTER:** July 31  
**NEW MOON:** August 8

What's the weather like?

Area	Today	Tomorrow
Newcastle	-2   13	-1   16
Morning mist then mostly clear.		
Ulundi	6   17	5   21
Partly cloudy at first then mostly clear.		
Ladysmith	0   13	-1   17
Morning mist then mostly clear.		
Richards Bay	12   17	11   20
Overcast with afternoon showers.		
Mooi River	-5   12	-6   16
Morning mist then mostly clear.		
Pietermaritzburg	3   17	2   21
Partly cloudy at first becoming mostly clear.		
Durban	11   17	10   19
Partly cloudy at first becoming mostly clear.		
Underberg	-4   12	-1   16
Mostly clear.		
Kokstad	-5   11	-3   15
Mostly clear.		
Margate	7   15	6   18
Mostly clear.		



**KZN WEATHER HOTLINE:** 083 123 0500  
**SA WEATHER SERVICE (DURBAN OFFICE):** 032 436 3820

**Fire Brigade:** 0800 033 911  
**Flying Squad:** 10111  
**Crime Stoo:** 08600 10111  
**Traffic Mpimpa Hotline:** 086 221 1011  
**Aids Hotline:** toll-free 0800 012 322  
**Gift of the Givers Careline:** 0800 786 786  
**Alcoholics Anon:** 086 143 5722  
**Al-Anon and Alateen:** 083 415 1717  
**Famsa PMB:** 033 342 4945  
**Famsa DBN:** 031 202 8987  
**Lifeline and rape crisis (24-hrs) PMB:** 033 342 4447  
**Lifeline and rape crisis (24-hrs) DBN:** 031 579 6500

IN AN EMERGENCY

**10111 10177**

031 312 2323  
 Childline: 0800 055 555  
 Gay & Lesbian Helpline: 086 033 3331  
 Gamblers Anon PMB: 033 387 5462  
 Gamblers Anon DBN: 031 463 1616  
 Forest Fires PMB: 0861 KZNFFPA  
 Safe City report crime via SMS PMB: 083 767 7233  
 911 Control Centre, PMB: 033 391 1911  
 SPCA PMB: 033 386 9267  
 SPCA DBN: 031 579 6500

AMBULANCE

NSRI: 031 361 8567  
 Sanca PMB: 033 345 4173  
**MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY**  
 Call Centre: 0800 001 868  
 Water: 033 392 2128  
 Electricity: 033 392 5098/5096/5029  
 After-hours number: 033 392 5098  
 Traffic lights: 033 392 2205  
 Roads damage: 033 392 2047, 033 392 2059  
**EMERGENCY CHEMISTS**

DAM LEVELS

Albert Falls Dam **53,57%**  
 Inanda Dam **93,64%**  
 Mearns Dam **89,07%**  
 Midmar Dam **97,5%**  
 Spring Grove **92,44%**  
 Hazelmeere Dam **45,66%**  
 Information supplied by Umgeni Water.

POWERBALL

2 28 29 38 42 + 2

POWERBALL PLUS

7 21 31 34 45 + 17

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DA plan charges for Zuma twins

CLIVE NDOU

As mobs continue to unleash a wave of looting accompanied by violence, the DA have resolved to lay criminal charges against some of former president Jacob Zuma's children it accuses of inciting the violence. Speaking during a virtual media briefing in Durban, DA federal leader John Steenhuisen yesterday said Zuma's son Duduzane and his twin sister Dudu Zuma-Sambudla, have been sending out tweets designed to incite looting and property destruction. "This is a time when leaders should be doing whatever they can to calm supporters, and not to inflame the situation," he said. The DA, Steenhuisen said, would also be laying criminal charges against EFF leader, Julius Malema, also for sending out tweets that have the potential to incite violence.

The DA's decision comes a day after ANC deputy secretary general, Jessie Duarte, announced that the party would be investigating Zuma-Sambudla for her "let it burn" tweets.

She has also been pushing the Free Jacob Zuma campaign, threatening to shut down the economy if the former president was not released from prison.

Steenhuisen said it was important for leaders to work towards bringing an end to the current looting and destruction of property. President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his Monday address to the nation, said the government would be tough on protesters.

However, Steenhuisen said the DA was of the view that the government was not doing enough to stop the unrest. "President Ramaphosa's tough words have not been met with tough action on the ground," Steenhuisen said, adding that police visibility, particularly in areas where the looting was continuing in several parts of Durban, was non-existent.

Even though soldiers have been deployed to assist police, Steenhuisen said the number that has been brought into KZN was small when compared to the magnitude of the looting.

Of the total number of soldiers deployed nationally, Steenhuisen said, only 600 have been sent to KwaZulu-Natal.

LOOTING GOES ON DESPITE 26 DEAD IN KZN

CLIVE NDOU

Twenty six people have died since the beginning of violent looting on Friday.

This is according to KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Sihle Zikalala.

Addressing the province's citizens yesterday, Zikalala said most of those who died were killed during the stampedes which happened during the looting. The cost of destruction caused by looters across the province amounted to more than R100 million, he said.

"The disruptions had a massive impact on lives, service delivery and the province's economy. The Covid-19 vaccination programme, which is vital in the fight against the virus, has ground to a halt as a result of the violent protests. Health services have been severely affected, with ambulances being burnt and health workers not able to report to work," he said.

Despite 187 people having been arrested in connection with the violent protests, looting and destruction of property continued yesterday morning.

Radar on right-wingers

SSA also looking into possible targeted attacks on foreign nationals

State Security Minister Ayanda Dlodlo says intelligence agencies are already looking into possible attacks on foreign nationals and right-wing extremism in the wake of the violence that has gripped KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.

During a media briefing yesterday, ministers in the security cluster detailed the government's response to the violence led, at first, by demonstrators opposing the incarceration of former president Jacob Zuma.

While the violence was continuing unabated, Dlodlo said reports of xenophobic violence and right-wing extremism were received by the State Security Agency (SSA).

"I must say that at this point the State Security Agency is already looking into the possibility of attacks on foreign nationals that I would never want to call xenophobia. We are also looking at possible eruption of right-wing extremism as you would have seen what was happening in KwaZulu-Natal which can lead to racial tensions in that area. We are

on top of issues. We received a report yesterday (Monday), which will be properly packaged around these two issues. "The extremism and possible attacks on foreign nationals," she said.

Dlodlo said the SSA is only looking at possible attacks on foreign nationals and it does not mean the situation will result in xenophobic violence.

Dlodlo said the SSA hands over information to law enforcement. She said the SSA reinforced its officers in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng and added that "many things" were averted because police had acted.

The SSA's intervention and intelligence prevented attacks on substations, planned attacks on ANC offices in KwaZulu-Natal and attacks in the Durban Westville Prison, Dlodlo said.

On a question of whether former senior members of the SSA were involved in instigating the unrest in KwaZulu-Natal, Dlodlo said the SSA was verifying those claims.

Dlodlo said even before the violence flared up, the SSA and police shared information from day one. "Only so much can be done with the information at hand. Some information is false. Some information is true. Police would have done their best to follow up on information," she said. Meanwhile, Police Minister Bheki Cele was quick to dispel any notion that police and intelligence agencies acted too late.

He said police are monitoring people inciting violence on social media. "As a cluster, we are monitoring all social media platforms as we are tracking those calling for civil disobedience," he said, adding that they were working with social media companies to track post origins.

Cele warned that if the violence continues, there is a great risk that towns and cities will run out of essential foods — a situation he described as "disastrous for the country". — News24.

GROWING RACIAL TENSIONS CONDEMNED

NOKUTHULA NTULI

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Peggy Nkonyeni, has condemned the growing racial tensions among community members in the province.

This follows reports that some community members, in a bid to protect their properties, had begun attacking other racial groups alleging that they were posing a threat of damaging or stealing their belongings. Nkonyeni's office yesterday said

there was a number of scattered attempts of racial attacks in areas such as Phoenix, Chatsworth and parts of Pietermaritzburg.

"We are calling upon all the affected community members to work together in the fight against any violence.

"We also urge that community members work together with the law enforcement agencies and not take the law into their own hands," said Nkonyeni.

She warned that this kind of repul-

sive behaviour would further divide the people of the province in a time when they should be uniting in the fight against the serious acts of looting, serious destruction of property and vandalism of the infrastructure.

Nkonyeni condemned acts that fuelled racial tension and called for unity among community members.

"There are ongoing investigations, and those who are found to be engaging in these acts of violence will not be spared, they will be arrested and prosecuted," she said.

'Keep strategic points safe'

CLIVE NDOU

The KwaZulu-Natal Economic Council yesterday called for more police visibility around the province's economic hubs in the wake of the violent looting.

The council, which held a meeting on Monday, said it was critical for law enforcement agencies to act against the violent protesters.

"While the forum welcomed the deployment of the army to support the work of the police, it called for visibility of law enforcement officers in strategic corridors of the economy like the ports, distribution centres and freeways," the council said in a statement.

The cost of the looting to the provincial economy, the council said, skyrocketed over the past few days.

"The material cost to the economy has been revised up to billions of rand. At the start of the rioting government had provided initial conservative figures of about R100 million.

"However, business has indicated that as a result of shutting down operations, destruction of property, physical loss of goods and working hours, the cost to the economy today runs into billions of rand," the council said.

A loss of investment confidence was expected to see this figure rising even further.

The looting, the council said, would have a negative impact on the provincial government's plans to grow the economy and create jobs.

The council said this will also significantly dampen the investor confidence in the province, adding the loss of jobs and livelihoods was one of the immediate consequences of the looting.

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'Tongaat residents fighting back to protect their homes'

PURNAL POONUSAMY

Tongaat residents sealed off the entrance to the CBD there to prevent looters gaining entrance to it on Monday night.

Speaking to *The Witness* yesterday morning, Nazir Sadack of the Tongaat Community Emergency Response Team, said things at the CBD had quieted down due to the residents from the surrounding areas taking a stand to block off the roads leading to the CBD.

Sadack advised residents not to enter the area, as everything is closed, and nothing is left to loot.

He added that police, security and CERT volunteers are patrolling.

On Monday night, looting and marching took place in the northern and southern areas of Tongaat, but that had calmed yesterday morning. He said the beach area was quiet, save for a few sporadic incidents on the M4 highway.



The shopping centre in Tongaat that was set alight. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

A shopping centre in the CBD was set on fire on Monday night after it was looted the previous day. Sadack said the building was still smoldering when he visited on Monday morning.

He said that many shops were gutted, and clean-up for them had not begun,

however the debris on the roads were moved to the side to let cars pass through.

DA exco member and local councillor, Yogis Govender said government had failed to act promptly.

She said: "They failed to deploy the

army speedily. Tongaat and Verulam residents were terrorised for days. The business sector in Tongaat is like a warzone. "In the suburbs, residents are now fighting back, just to protect the sanctity of their homes. Terrifying messages are circulating of race-based violence and vengeance is very concerning."

"This looting and criminal behaviour has far reaching consequences, food scarcity and water outages are emerging as an additional stress.

"Medication, baby food, Covid testing, vaccination roll-out and access to health care has been seriously compromised. Unemployment due to job losses is going to cause economic distress to law abiding citizens."

Govender advised residents to network through their community groups, and to only post important and relevant information on these groups.

"Neighbourhood watches are now a necessity more than ever," she said.

UGU WATER WOES SET TO WORSEN AFTER TANKERS BURNT

NTANDOYENKOSI DLAMINI

Water supply issues will continue to plague residents in the Ugu District Municipality, following the burning of municipal water tankers on Monday.

Ugu's municipal spokesperson France Zama, said the burning of the tankers will have a devastating effect in the municipality's ability to provide portable water.

The water tankers were set alight

along with municipal vehicles, offices and a fresh produce market in Mkholombe on Monday during the unrest.

Areas such as Palm Beach, Port Edward and Gamalakhe on the KZN South Coast have been without water since Sunday.

"Due to the volatility of the situation at our Mkholombe depot on Monday, we could not access the premises to establish the number of water tankers that were torched. But I can

confirm that a significant number of water tanker trucks were destroyed to ashes at our Mkholombe depot. And this is indeed a bad state of affairs to have service delivery vehicles being destroyed in this manner," said Zama.

Zama said the fresh produce market's sole purpose was to provide a trading platform for local farmers and serve as a catalyst for the development of black farmers to become successful producers and suppliers.

KZN TAXI ASSOCIATION URGES DRIVERS TO BE CAREFUL

THABISO GOBA

The KwaZulu-Natal taxi association said it will be "monitoring" the situation on whether it is safe to send taxis back on the road today.

Sfiso Shangase, spokesperson of the provincial South African South African National Taxi Council (Santaco), said the suspension on taxis was lifted

yesterday. "From what we have seen, the roads are open and there are no burning tyres or protestors.

"So we are urging our drivers and taxi owners to monitor the situation and if it is safe to operate then they should," said Shangase.

"There are a lot of cities like Durban where it might be hard to oper-

ate due to debris still being on the roads but some other places, it is clear," he said.

KZN Santaco suspended all its taxis from operating due to civil unrest on Monday. Shangase also condemned taxi drivers who were part of the looting and said one taxi was burnt and a driver assaulted during the unrest in Phoenix.

SUE SEGAR

Rob Stapylton-Smith, whose two farms in Ixopo fall under the Stapylton-Smith Farming CC, yesterday dumped 28 000 litres of milk.

If deliveries are not able to get back to normal, he and other farmers in the area, will have to repeat this in the next few days. He said no milk tankers could be dispatched to collect between 600 000 and one million litres a day produced in the area each day.

He said he has only enough capacity to keep the milk on the farm for two days. "So today, because our milk

wasn't fetched yesterday, we waited till 11 am and then we got a directive from DFSA to say that it is still unsafe to put trucks out on the roads to collect our milk.

"We will therefore be throwing away the milk we have in the tanks to make space to milk the cows this afternoon and again tomorrow morning.

"So our farm, our operation will throw away 28 000 litres of milk. We will be opening the tap and throwing it down the drain." He said in financial terms, the milk thrown away yesterday is worth R160 000. He said his neighbour, (Mark Hauff



Milk being dumped on a farm near Ixopo yesterday.

had to get staff to transport his own milk, pouring it out onto a field. They sucked it into a tanker and

both our product and our inputs.

"Our two small towns, Donnybrook and Ixopo were decimated last night with looting and we are worried that this will spill over onto farms."

He said that farmers, shop owners and police in Ixopo yesterday morning pushed everyone out of town and barricaded the town to try and bring peace and only leave people in town who are not looting.

"In Kokstad, I understand the communities have used tractors and trucks to put mounds of earth on the roads coming in and out of Kokstad as physical barriers to stem the tide."

VACCINATIONS DISRUPTED IN KZN, GAUTENG

The national health department said yesterday the national vaccination programme is continuing across most provinces, with vaccines being safely distributed to operational sites.

However, the ongoing violent protests in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng have impacted the vaccination rollout and disrupted access to essential healthcare services, including the collection of chronic medication.

In a press statement yesterday, the department said government and the private sector's priority is to protect lives, and prevent harm to staff, patients and the medical supplies and property that form part of the vaccination programme.

Consequently, some vaccination sites that have been damaged or which may be at risk have been temporarily close.

Anyone who had been scheduled to be vaccinated at sites in districts or areas that are affected by the unrest are advised to defer their vaccination. The Electronic Vaccine Data System (EVDS) will automatically reschedule appointments for those unable to attend; it is programmed to reschedule up to two missed appointments.

The department also warned people not to buy any medicines offered for sale by anyone other than registered medical practitioners, pharmacies or hospitals, and to report any attempted sale to the SAPS immediately. "Stolen or improperly dispensed medicines are extremely dangerous as they may not have been stored properly, may be contaminated, or may cause dangerous side-effects," the department said. — WR.

WHO WARNS AGAINST MIXING JABS

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) chief scientist on Monday advised against people mixing and matching Covid-19 vaccines from different manufacturers, calling it a "dangerous trend" since more data is needed about the health impact.

Soumya Swaminathan told an online briefing, "It will be a chaotic situation in countries if citizens start deciding when and who will be taking a second, a third and a fourth dose."

Swaminathan called mixing a "data-free zone" on Monday but the WHO clarified yesterday that some data was available and more was expected.

Its Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on vaccines in June said the Pfizer vaccine could be used as a second dose after an initial dose of AstraZeneca, if the latter is not available.

The results of a further clinical trial led by the University of Oxford, which will look at mixing AstraZeneca and Pfizer as well as Moderna and Novovax vaccines, is underway. — Reuters.

GLOBAL COUNT

187 612 311  
Total confirmed cases

4 045 064  
Total deaths

2 219 316  
Total confirmed SA cases (July 13)

12 537  
Increase in 24 hours

65 142  
Total SA deaths

## People watch as shacks burn

CLIVE NDOU

Msunduzi Mayor, Mzi Thebolla yesterday condemned the antagonistic attitudes towards Khan Road shack dwellers in Northdale.

"It should be remembered that people who reside in informal settlements left their homes to be closer to their work places. It's unfortunate that certain individuals have decided to adopt an antagonistic stance against informal settlement dwellers," Thebolla said.

In a video sent to *The Witness*, a group of people can be seen standing next to the Khan Road informal settlement as shacks burn.

Thebolla said there has always been an agenda to drive out the informal settlement dwellers. "We are aware that they have always been blamed for each and every service delivery problem in the area. It is for this reason that we are not surprised when the current unrest is being used as a scapegoat to attack the informal settlement dwellers," he said.

According to reports, one person died and two other informal settlement residents are in a critical condition in hospital after sustaining burn injuries when their shacks caught light on Monday.

It was unclear how the shacks caught light.

In a joint statement, ANC MP and SA communist party senior leader Yunus Carrim and veteran ANC activist and former MP, Yusuf Bhamjee, expressed concerns about the tensions around the Khan Road informal settlement dwellers. "The needs of both those from the informal settlement and the established community are understandable, but we need to avoid this becoming a racial war, from which we will never ever recover.

"We cannot remain forever in a state of war. We have no choice but to co-exist across racial lines and we have to reduce the deep racial inequalities.

"This means the state, ANC, civil society and ordinary people have to work together to play a role in this," the two ANC activists said.

Intiaz Sooliman, from the Gift of the Givers, said using the current volatile situation in KwaZulu-Natal to deepen racial divisions was counterproductive. "There is anger understandably, on all sides, but expressing that anger violently is counterproductive to our harmonious development and in essence, is futile.

"We need to be circumspect in our approach, forgive the mistakes made, open meaningful dialogue, calm the tension and understand each other's challenges and anxieties. Conflict and aggression is not what we strive for in the 27 years of our young democracy. The journey to the ideal society is full of thorns and many challenges. How we navigate it, build friendships and a common humanity is in our hands," he said.

KZN community safety MEC, Peggy Nkonyeni, has also cautioned against the exploitation of the current volatile situation to create racial divisions.

## Unrest disrupts City services

As the city continues to be held in the grip of civil unrest, Msunduzi Municipality says its taken its toll on their infrastructure.

In a statement yesterday, Msunduzi said services are still disrupted, as a result of the current unrest.

"The protests have affected a number of areas and parts of the infrastructure. This follows a spree of looting in a number of shops, liquor stores, clothing and furniture outlets in most parts of the City. The public safety and emergency services worked tirelessly attending to emergency calls.

"A number of areas are currently experiencing power outages; the electricity department is attending to them. The municipality's call centre, banking hall and other offices are currently unable to operate as normal and are closed until further notice. We are appealing to consumers who have reported service delivery faults to be patient as there might be delays in having the faults attended to."

The city urged residents to report incidents of damage to public property on the following emergency call centre numbers:

033 392 3725  
033 392 2945  
033 392 2504

Calls can also be made to 10111 to the respective ward councillors.

Refuse collections, street sweeping, grass cutting services and the operation of the landfill site are currently suspended. "Residents are requested to continue keeping waste inside their premises until further notice.

"The municipality apologises for the inconvenience caused, calls for patience during this period of unrest and urges all residents to ensure their safety until the calm is restored. We will do our utmost best to minimise service delivery interruption." — WR.

# 'Shut the road blocks'

## Msunduzi Mayor warns against escalating racial tensions in the city

SIYAMTANDA CAPA

Shut down the citizen road blocks.

Msunduzi Mayor Mzimkulu Thebolla yesterday told *The Witness* he had been informed that residents in some suburbs were closing off entrances to their areas. He said he had also been told that there were racial tensions brewing in Pietermaritzburg.

He said this would not be tolerated. "The question remains: who have they closed off the area to? It will be said that the area has been closed to looters, but the reality is that the looters in the main are African.

"This is honestly something we cannot tolerate. We are going to have a challenge if we do not stop this now. Unless we do something about it.

"This is not something we are going to accept. We need to somehow intervene," said Thebolla.

Asked what the city was doing to ensure residents felt safe in their homes, Thebolla said there was only so much the municipality could do. "We are trying all we can. It is unfortunate that people are feeling unsafe in their homes, but we are also doing all we can.

"As a government in our totality we need to do something to make sure that people are safe in their homes."



The clean-up of Pietermaritzburg's streets is expected to start today. PHOTO: NASH NARRANDES

He said some responsibilities however did not lie with local government.

He said the clean-up of the ransacked Central Business District (CBD) will

start today. This is if the unrest in the City calms

down. He said plans were afoot to start cleaning up the City's streets as soon as possible. Currently the CBD is in a shambolic state from the unrest. Thebolla said the City's was reluctant to start cleaning the streets only for the CBD to be trashed once more.

"We are putting together a plan, but we cannot implement a plan not knowing whether we will have to go back when we find that they have gone back there," said Thebolla.

The mayor said the City would work with various organisations to restore areas that had been affected.

"If things calm down, we will start [today] and we will clean the entire city with volunteers. This will only be decided as and when we realise that it is calm and safe and that people can start moving into town," said Thebolla.

The mayor said that while he would not name the organisations, many people had shown willingness to assist the City. "These are people who love their city, who feel that this is our city and we must work towards reviving it. We are very grateful," said Thebolla.

He said the initial plan was to start the clean-up yesterday, but it was changed as the chaos continued in Pietermaritzburg.

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## 'It was like a war all night,' say residents

NOKUTHULA NTULI

The gap between the haves and have nots was clearly evident in the looting patterns that played out on Pietermaritzburg's streets in the past two days.

People from low-income households mostly went for the basics such as food, baby supplies and detergents while the middle class came in vehicles to load up with furniture and appliances.

Yesterday morning the CBD was strewn with empty cardboard boxes, plastic packets, naked mannequins as well broken glass and furniture left in the wake of Monday night's destruction that saw stores like the retail giant, Game, being looted. Some could be seen pushing trolleys with their loot — mostly containing food and other small household supplies — as they rushed to escape the CBD on foot.

People living on the streets also used this as an opportunity to get new gear. They then left their old blankets and soiled clothes lying on the pavements.

Meanwhile, those living in the city centre told *The Witness* about how they felt trapped in their homes in the midst of the violence on their doorsteps. "We were scared for our lives last night (Monday). There were fires burning and gunshots everywhere. We didn't get any sleep," said Sithembile Sithole.

She said she wanted to take her teenage daughter and drive to her friend's place in Taylor's Halt, but was scared of getting caught up in the chaos and possibly getting hurt.

Sithole, who is originally from Maphumulo, works for one of the big furniture shops that were looted on Monday.

She said she was considering going back home when the dust settled because she did not think the shop would reopen anytime soon, if ever. "The head office has not confirmed it but I'm basically unemployed at the moment so I have no reason to stay here and I'd rather go home where I don't have to pay rent."

Goodwin Dunia, who lives in one of the buildings on Church Street, said he watched all the action from his bedroom window. He said it was tempting to join in the looting because the police were not arresting anyone.

"I thought what if I die while stealing, my family would be disgraced."

He said he packed a small bag with essential documents, wallet, phone charger and a few clothes on Monday morning, just in case he needed to leave his home in a hurry.

"I sat with my clothes and shoes on last night (Monday) just ready to run if they set my building on fire."

He said he was shocked to see the looting continuing and people firing guns in the presence of the army and the police. "It was like a war and I'm sure people got hurt," said Dunia.

• nokuthula.ntuli@witness.co.za

## Even small Midlands towns not spared

INGRID OELLERMANN

Outlying areas such as Howick resembled a ghost town yesterday after the pillaging, with many other small village centres also destroyed.

Community members in other outlying suburbs like Ashburton, outside Pietermaritzburg, as well as in Hilton and Nottingham Road, like other KZN communities, took it on themselves to protect what is left to save.

Armed community members supported by private security manned roadblocks set up at a four-way intersection at Ashburton to protect the local Pick 'n Pay, garage and butchery.

This amid a notable absence of any police or SANDF soldiers. Sporadic gunfire has been heard in the area from Monday and distraught members of the community said they felt abandoned by law enforcement agencies and the government.

Many residents — mostly keeping contact via WhatsApp groups — were helping each other out with basic food products and animal feed, forcing those brave or desperate enough to venture further from their homes in search of basic foods like bread and milk. The Camperdown Spar reportedly opened for a few hours yesterday morning but as word spread, the queue grew long and shelves were quickly emptied, a source said.

Ashburton Pick n Pay elected not to open again due to the risks of being attacked. This followed the torching of the Pick n Pay at Polly Shortts on Monday.

A resident in the Howick area said Greendale Spar and St John Pick 'n Pay remained shut and under guard. No other supermarket was open.

"Fuel is being kept for SAPS, security firms and community patrols. The bridge over the Umgeni River is being blockaded by residents who are only letting in people who have to be in

**HOWICK STARTS CLEAN-UP**

**INGRID OELLERMANN**

The people of Howick have wasted no time in starting to clean up their town. "It started with about five of us (cleaning in Bell Street) and we were soon joined by two shopkeepers and then a few other older Howick residents," DA councillor Janis Holmes said last night.

She said they had decided to do another clean up today and she was "totally overwhelmed" by how quickly people had responded to a WhatsApp invitation to join in, sent on their local Howick group.

"People of Howick are really proud of their heritage and their town and really just want to get it clean and back to normal as quickly as possible. Obviously we will monitor the situation to see

town," said the resident.

Stores known to have been hit in Howick and Merrivale include branches of Pick 'n Pay, Merrivale Spar and Tops and others, including furniture stores.

Midlands Auctions in Merrivale posted on Facebook that it was hit on Monday night but the SAPS arrived "on scene relatively promptly and dispersed the crowd".

DA KZN provincial deputy leader, Chris Pappas, told *The Witness* people's concerns about the lack of visibility of the army and police were widespread. Pappas said when driving around over three days he personally saw only two police vehicles.

During an engagement with the SANDF he had been informed that the

army was initially deployed only at national key points like the KZN Legislature in Pietermaritzburg. He said he had established that the SANDF and SAPS met yesterday morning to discuss an "operational plan".

He said armed citizens have meanwhile formed roadblocks to protect their suburbs.

"The destruction in the small towns in the Midlands is incredible, like something out of the Apocalypse movies," Pappas said of Howick.

He said one of the concerns were the racial tensions that were building.

"These are law abiding people who just want to restore law and order but among well-meaning people there are some people not so friendly towards other South Africans," said Pappas.

## Fears of food shortages

JYOTHI LALDAS and NTANDOYENKOSI DLAMINI

Fears that KwaZulu-Natal might run out of food in the days to come if the unrest continues, have sent residents and businesses into a panic.

With many grocery stores across the province having been looted and emptied, shoppers headed out yesterday morning in the hopes that they would be able to stock up on food at the few places that were not hit.

Most of the stores have rationed groceries to prevent panic buying and ensuring more people are able to access food and other grocery items. Despite this, the smaller stores soon ran out of stock of most items.

On the KZN South Coast, businesses in Port Shepstone opened their doors for residents to buy essential groceries like bread, and nappies.

This was done yesterday from 8 am to 10 am. However, a number of people in areas like Margate, Shelly Beach and Uvongo said they are still struggling to get things like toilet paper and bread since both the South Coast Mall and Shelly Centre are still closed due to the violent protests.

The Albany Bakery in Margate, which supplies the majority of the Ugu District has been closed since protest action began on Monday.

People on the North Coast also faced a similar situation. Queuing at a small supermarket in Stanger Manor, KwaDukuza one resident, Lilyan Daniel said

she had run out of milk on Sunday.

"I thought I would pick up some stuff on Monday — how wrong I was. This whole scene is like out of a movie. I never thought such a thing would happen in my lifetime. I am so scared that we will run out of food soon and by the looks of things that is where we are heading. Our malls have been cleaned out, our CBD too. We are lucky that these small stores were spared here so we could get a few things. I don't know what we will do in the days to come if this keeps going on."

Speaking to *The Witness*, programme co-ordinator for the Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice and Dignity Group Mervyn Abrahams said from the visuals he has been seeing since Saturday, he expects that food availability for the next two to three weeks will be severely compromised.

"We can also expect that prices of various food products will increase as retailers try to get their margins back.

"This will have the most negative impact on the low income households."

The owner of SupplyLink Distributors, a bulk food distributor based in Ballito, said they were selling items to walk in customers from their warehouse. "At the moment we are selling what we have to people because of the shortage and because we cannot allow the items to go bad.

He said the looting has affected many sectors.

"I definitely anticipate a shortage of food, yes," the owner said.

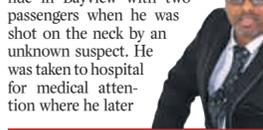
## Chatsworth pastor shot while on patrol

THABISO GOBA

Tributes are pouring in for Chatsworth pastor Adrian Naidoo (pictured), who was shot and killed during a community patrol on Monday night.

Provincial police spokesperson, Captain Ngobile Gwala, said a case of murder is being investigated by the Bayview Police Station.

She said Naidoo (47) was driving on Clandestine Avenue in Bayview with two passengers when he was shot on the neck by an unknown suspect. He was taken to hospital for medical attention where he later



died, added Gwala.

Brandon Pillay, chairperson of the Bayview community police forum, which Naidoo belonged to, said he was doing patrols with Naidoo on the night he died. "He was a hero, a community leader, and a people's person."

Pillay said the community of Bayview was not spared from the looting as their entire shopping centre was wiped clean. "Since yesterday afternoon things have been quieter and peaceful. I hope it stays that way," said Pillay.

Jonathan Annipen, constituency leader of the IFP in Phoenix, said he was devastated by the news of Naidoo's death. He described him as a personal friend.

Chatsworth councillor Previn Vedan also paid tribute to Naidoo as a man who was involved in the community.

With regards to the unrest, Vedan said the situation in Chatsworth was very "intense" with dead bodies lying on the floor in some areas, and reports of shootings in other places.

"There's a dead body lying in Crossmoor, another dead body was lying at the Ridge mall."

He also said that a 24-year-old moulana (Muslim scholar) was shot dead on Monday.

"Police are afraid of coming into the area and opportunistic looting is still continuing right now," he said. Vedan appealed for calm in the community.

## KZN CHURCH LEADERS CALL FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO ONGOING UNREST

NOKUTHULA NTULI

Religious leaders in KwaZulu-Natal have called for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing violence and unrest in various parts of the province and the nation at large.

Led by Cardinal Wilfrid Napier (pictured), the KZN Church Leaders Group held a virtual meeting yesterday morning where they discussed their concerns regarding the ongoing

violence, looting and damage of property. "We condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the violence that has wreaked havoc across our province: destroying property, infrastructure and businesses, intimidating innocent people and causing widespread fear and anxiety.

"We state that this is totally unacceptable and cannot, under any circumstances be tolerated," said Napier. The church leaders were also

concerned about the long-term impact of the ongoing unrest on businesses, livelihoods and access to food. Napier and Bishop Nkosinathi Myaka went on to emphasise the call to government to urgently reduce the glaring and immoral chasm between the rich and the people on the mar-

gins. The church leaders said the poorest and most marginalised, who have already been hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and its related lockdown restrictions, who will again bear the brunt and feel the real pain of this violent unrest. "Government, the faith



and business sectors and civil society together have an urgent role to play in responding to those who are destitute and hungry; a situation which has only been amplified by the Covid-19 pandemic over the past 18 months. Poverty and dire hunger cannot be ignored and must be addressed immediately. Leaving these lived realities unaddressed is not only immoral, but will also prepare fertile ground for unrest" said Myaka.

## Limited fuel may last few more days

PURNAL POONUSAMY

If the unrest continues, it spells trouble for motorists, as fuel resources are slowly being depleted.

Many garages remained closed to the public, however the few that were open yesterday said they were extremely busy with patrons trying to fill their tanks. They also said that their resources were being depleted and that they probably only have enough supply for one more day.

Many people in the province took to the various social media platforms to find out which garages were open, to fill up. This fuel shortage could spell trouble for emergency services that are currently constantly on the move and responding to various incidents in their respective areas.

Speaking to *The Witness*, Tongaat Community Emergency Service's Nazir Sadack, said there are no fuel deliveries and this has left current resources limited. Sadack, his team, and other emergency services have been tirelessly responding to incidents all over the North Coast since the unrest commenced last Friday.

He said that thankfully some local garages in the area had made arrangements to provide fuel for the first responders, however he expects that it will only last for a few more days. He added that if there is no fuel delivery over the next few days, he is unsure what will happen in terms of their ability to respond to incidents.

A motorist who has been helping his community patrol in the Chatsworth area, Shawn Pillay said he had driven all over his suburb, but there were queues lining up at all the open petrol stations, with desperate drivers wanting to fill up. "It's not surprising. People are just being cautious. But we need the petrol available for those who are on the move and helping prevent violence in the area," he said.

The Department of Energy had not responded by the time of publication.

Est 1846  
**The Witness**  
KwaZulu-Natal July 14, 2021

## OUR VIEWPOINT

## LACK OF LEADERSHIP

**P**resident Cyril Ramaphosa's address to the nation on Monday night fell far short of what many had hoped it would be. The content of his speech was lacklustre. Even his body language conveyed the attitude of someone who was not engaged in what he was saying. Frightened residents affected by the lawlessness wanted strong leadership from him. His language was measured. He began with his usual prolonged preamble, which only served to heighten

the frustration of those watching, before getting to the meat of what residents really wanted to hear. Where is the help? What is government doing? When will it be over? Where is the enforcement of the curfew? Remember that? We still have a curfew. The fact that looting continued unabated in towns overnight and yesterday, shows that the promise of troops and feet on the ground was empty. Meaningless. The groups of civilians who

guarded entries to suburbs are testament to the fact that again they felt vulnerable. Gunfire, stun grenades and explosions rent the night as residents shivered in their homes on high alert. Some in Maritzburg had crowds outside their homes yelling for them to get out. And talking about a lack of leadership, where is the voice of the Zulu nation's new king? How about if he stepped in and exercised some civil responsibility to call for order?

It feels like the citizens who have been abandoned in their hour of need are playing a cat and mouse game trying to find someone who will take the initiative and get the situation under control. It's not enough for politicians to say they're shocked at what happened. Here are some questions for them. What will you do when food runs out as the N3 is closed and trucks can't move, and supermarkets that have been looted and burnt need time to rebuild? What must the hungry do?

What are you saying to the people stuck at home too scared to put their noses outside the door? What are you saying to the businesses that have lost everything? What are you saying to the people who have lost their jobs as a direct result of looted businesses being left bankrupt? It cannot be a hands-off approach. Where there is a leadership vacuum, there is always someone else willing to step in. Who is there? Who's left?

## War on two fronts

OPINION  
Mandy Wiener

**A**s shopping centres went up in flames, cars were torched, trailers were packed with flat-screen televisions and crates of beer were pushed off, the country's fight against Covid-19 was shifted momentarily to the side.

The practical impact of the lawless rioting and looting in Kwa-Zulu-Natal and Gauteng is the closure of the economy and a disastrous effect on health care, emergency services and the vaccine rollout. Various clinics were closed and vaccine sites shut.

The Gauteng government said emergency services' personnel were experiencing difficulty in responding to distress calls due to limited access. They also expressed concern about the superspreader events that the gatherings could become. Not only that, hospital emergency staff were having to deal with the casualties of the violence and ongoing clashes with police. "Hospital admissions continue to increase and are placing a heavy strain on the health-care system," said the statement.

Dr Frans Skosana, a pulmonologist at Olivedale Hospital in Johannesburg, tweeted this on Monday afternoon: "This is what this chaos is doing to hospitals. This is just one aspect. Lives at risk." He sent a screenshot saying: "Our bulk oxygen tank is at 25% and the refill truck is waiting for a police escort to the hospital. The current oxygen will last less

than 24hrs at the current rate. We need everyone's input to save where we can."

As President Cyril Ramaphosa said in his address on Monday night, although these may be opportunistic acts of looting driven by hardship and poverty, the poor and marginalised bear the ultimate brunt of the destruction. "Shops have been looted and infrastructure destroyed. This means that our sick cannot get medication from pharmacies, food does not reach supermarket shelves, and health workers cannot go to work. Our vaccination programme has been severely disrupted just as it is gaining momentum. This will have lasting effects on our ability to consolidate some of the progress we were already witnessing in our economic recovery. These disruptions will cost lives by cutting off the supply chains that sustain our food, health and production systems," he said.

While the country is so overwhelmed by the fight against Covid-19, we simply cannot afford to be distracted or impeded at this point. It will lead to more unnecessary deaths. We have to move with speed now that we have stock and capacity. In the latest Nids-Cram survey, out last week, researchers stressed the necessity of vaccinating on weekends. "Approximately 1,3 million more vaccine doses could have been administered in May and June 2021," Dr Nic Spaull was quoted as saying. "It's like fighting a raging fire and sending the firefighters home at the weekend."

Now, with vaccine sites impacted during the week, this will further set back the goal of vaccinating 300 000 a day or 67% of the population by the end of the year. We have already suffered almost

65 000 deaths due to Covid-19; that's just according to government statistics.

But it will be naive right now to think there is no war erupting on another flank too. The pandemic and lockdowns have decimated the economy and left millions of South Africans unemployed. It has long been a tinder box waiting to ignite.

The violence is ostensibly under the banner of the free Jacob Zuma movement, but there is little doubt now that the looting and unrest are less about one man than about poverty and desperation. This is an unemployment revolution that has long been brewing. It needed a catalyst. Zuma's arrest was it.

There is undoubtedly a criminal element, too. The attacking of a mosque, of a veterinary clinic, and of ambulance workers is undoubtedly criminal.

Isobel Frye, a director at the Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute, told me that we need to be very cautious in dismissing these riots as linked to one specific cause: to free Zuma from prison.

"What we have seen from our research over the years is that there are growing numbers of people who are facing hunger and starvation daily. ... So what we've seen in the face of all of this is a sense of complete helplessness," said Frye. She added there is a sense that, if you've got no hope in the future, you've got nothing to lose.

The government is fighting a war on two fronts and it simply cannot afford to, both the battles against the pandemic and poverty are now raging. The state is exposed, leaving us all vulnerable.

• Mandy Wiener is a journalist, author and host of the *Midday Report* on 702.



Sri Lankan pupils ride a motorbike home after attending their online classes from a nearby mountain top in Bohitiyawa village in Meegahakwila, Sri Lanka. Climbing rocks and sitting on tree tops is not part of their curriculum but children in villages surrounding the capital city are doing just that to be able to catch mobile signals to access their online classes. The digital divide fuelled by uneven Internet access and high data cost has forced many pupils out of the formal education system in Sri Lanka.

PHOTO: AP

## Counting the cost

The ANC's internal contestations have taken the country to this point



OPINION  
Ralph Mathekga

**T**he emerging picture shows a country paying the high price of instability as a result of a party unable to sort itself out.

The protests that started in KwaZulu-Natal and spread to some parts of Gauteng divulge that the renewal project, said to be under way in the ANC, will not be an easy task.

However, it is those outside of the ANC, who trusted it to govern, who are paying the price.

Jacob Zuma's arrest sparked intense factional conflict in the ANC and the

party has to confront this crisis head-on. This requires that the party put aside its sectarian interests and pursue national interests.

But as we already know, the ANC's interests — or at least the interests of one of the factions in the party — goes against the interests of the country, as shown by the looting and destruction of property.

## NO COHERENCE FROM ANC

On Sunday night, President Cyril Ramaphosa spoke about how those organising

the protests would be brought to book.

Ramaphosa took a firm tone as the president of the country at a time when South Africans need the government's assurance that efforts will be made to return to normality.

Despite this, the party remains confused.

Senior party leaders show no coherence when speaking against the ongoing mayhem in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.

This is because senior party members are concerned with how the crisis affects their political fortunes, particularly the leadership contests that have become permanent party features.

When leaders are worried about their political fortunes, they are unable to take a position in which they rise above factional interests.

**"When leaders are worried about their political fortunes, they are unable to take a position in which they rise above factional interests. Even rallying behind the party's current leaders comes with calculations: how much support should be shown towards the president, and how vulnerable is his presidency in the ongoing crisis?"**

Even rallying behind the party's current leaders comes with calculations: how much support should be shown towards the president, and how vulnerable is his presidency in the ongoing crisis?

During this crisis, the party needs to understand that it doesn't matter which faction comes out stronger, there might not be much left of the ANC as a political party.

It has reached a point where a compromise between the factions is impossible.

## MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

For some in the ANC, the battle has become a matter of life and death in the sense that the more chaos there is following Zuma's arrest, the stronger their position is in pushing their agenda in the party and subsequently in the country.

Regardless of whether this strategy works, South Africa is paying the price of enduring instabilities in the form of violent protest and destruction of property.

Whatever experimentation is under way in the ANC between the factions, the cost is felt by South Africans outside the party.

The internal divisions in the ANC are

directly affecting the prospects for building a stable society with economic opportunities, and the party should take the blame for this.

South Africans outside the ANC are fed-up with living under a dysfunctional ANC incapable of exerting discipline among its members.

The crisis has escalated to a point where it will take the use of state resources, including already stretched police services, to address internal problems in the ANC.

The party should apologise to the nation for allowing internal conflicts in the party to spill over onto our streets. This was an avoidable crisis.

• Dr Ralph Mathekga is a political analyst and the author of *When Zuma Goes and Ramaphosa's Turn*.

## OUR READERS WRITE

## COMPLAINTS, CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

The editorial policy of The Witness is to correct substantial errors as soon as possible.

Please contact our public editor/ombudsman, George Claassen, at 021 8513232 or [george.claassen@media24.com](mailto:george.claassen@media24.com) if you want to complain about our content.

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## Inane utterance from our leader

Jacob Zuma must be smiling from his prison cell, watching KZN go up in flames in his name.

"They thought that by locking me up, it would be the end of Zuma. Ah, they got it wrong. They never foresaw that even if I am behind bars, I still wield enormous power and influence. See what my loyal supporters are doing to get me out of jail. They are mobilizing all over the province and creating havoc. Hee, hee, hee, I am more effective as a leader inside a prison than outside it."

And so we see violent protests spread like wildfire all over KZN, even spilling over to Gauteng.

Zuma supporters created mayhem, looting and vandalising private property. They blocked roads, stoned motorists and torched vehicles. Millions of rands went up in smoke. What mindless destruction.

It is obvious that the police were

caught off guard. Instead of imposing their authority in Nkandla, they let Zuma protesters gather in numbers in open defiance of the lockdown regulations.

And so we are paying a heavy price for poor, ineffective law enforcement. Outnumbered and over-powered, the police struggled to quell the rioting. And all the leaders could do in this great hour of need is call for peace and calm. Some even called for a presidential pardon for Zuma.

In his address last Sunday night, President Cyril Ramaphosa said that "no acts of violence will be tolerated". Such inane utterance from a leader at a time of crisis. In fact, his government has been very tolerant of violence and disorder. You think Zuma had a fitful night in prison? He must have slept well, outwitting his enemies yet again.

**THYAGARAJ MARKANDAN**  
Kloof

## BANISH HIM

Napoleon was banished to the island of St Helena after his abortive attempt to wield his power.

Jacob Zuma should be banished to wherever the Gupatas reside, Dubai or India, so that his comrades in crime can take care of him.

Surely he deserves some payback time from them after all he did to help them enrich themselves?

**PIXIE VAN HEERDEN**  
Wemley

## A SHREDDED WORLD

A shredded world, its strips, pegged to invisible cables, flap aimlessly in an indifferent wind.

**ROS POSEL**  
Hilton

## Disgusted by lack of action from government

In all my 50 plus years as a South African I have never been so disgusted and sickened by the non-existent actions of our government and the lawless actions of our fellow citizens.

The whole world is watching the violence, looting and complete anarchy that is taking place in parts of our country.

Why is our government not acting decisively to rein in the crowds?

This is clearly not about Jacob Zuma anymore. This is pure criminality taking place so it's baffling to see why no heavy

handed tactics are being used to restore peace and order.

The damage being done to our economy, at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has already crippled us, will last for years to come.

Every shop and factory being looted and destroyed adds to our rising unemployment. These actions and non-action of the government have the potential to turn our country to civil war due to the mere fact that the rest of our communities are tired of the rampant lawlessness

to the point where they will take up arms to protect themselves and their properties.

Cyril Ramaphosa, your lackadaisical attitude to our country burning is taking our country a thousand steps back in time.

No amount of money paid out by insurance companies will be enough to get us back to the peace and hopefulness we had as a nation before all this started.

**TYRON DANIELS**  
Cape Town

## We need to learn to practice selfless love

The media and courts call burning trucks "malicious damage to property", plunging a city into darkness "cable theft", and destroying Prasa "burning carriages", etc.

Why do we no longer call sabotage, sabotage?

Why not call treason, treason? Such actions do more damage now than they did in apartheid days.

We are struggling to rebuild a failing society and economy. The sabotage of looting the fiscus has been so treacherous that it undermines our hopes of prosperity. If we embrace other forms of sabotage we join the destroyers and deepen poverty and despair.

There is a better way to respond to our national crisis.

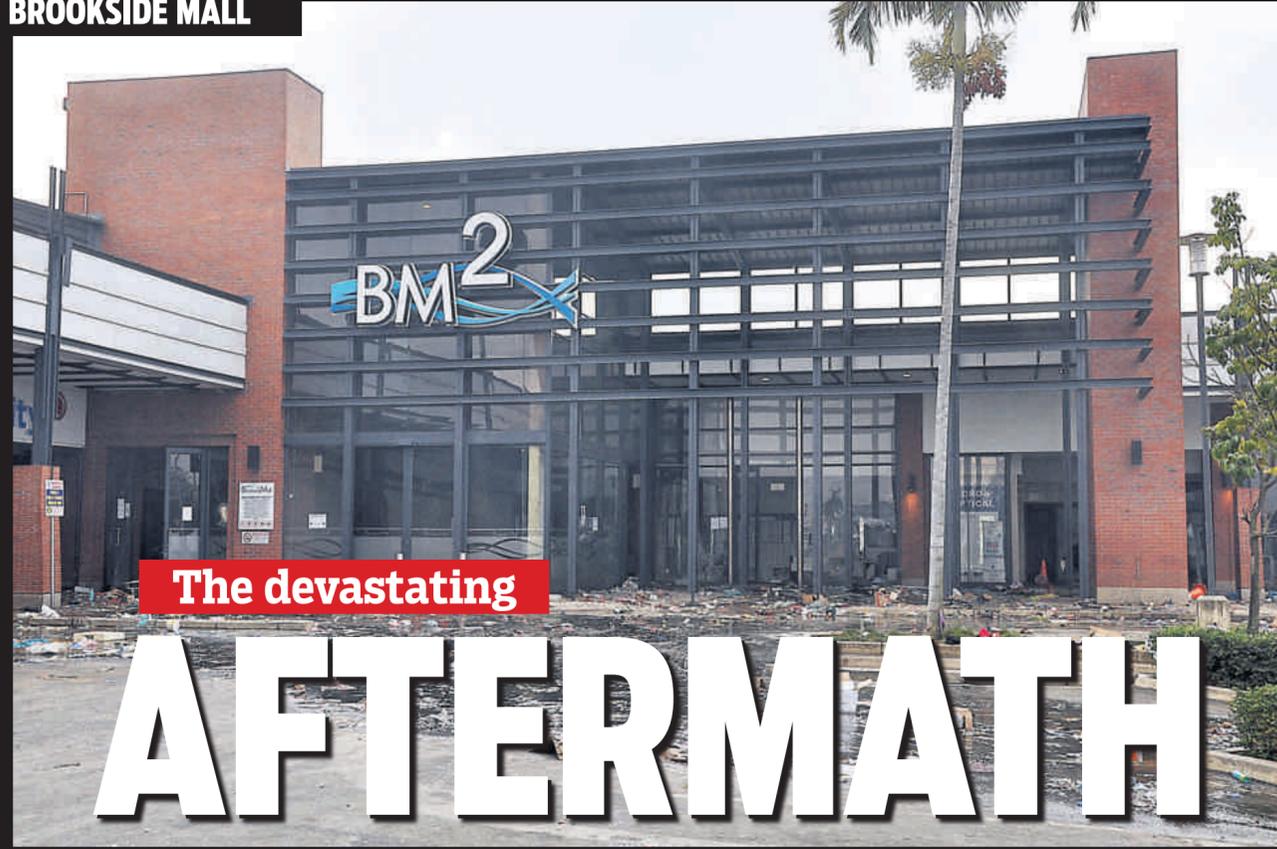
We need better values.

We need to learn to practice selfless love that builds by serving, integrity that develops and does not break down, forgiveness that replaces racial hatred, faithfulness in the place of self-serving theft, generosity in the place of grabbing, valuing hard work in place of entitlement and standing on our rights.

**JONATHAN LARSEN**  
Howick

• THE Editor reserves the right to shorten longer letters and edit all contributions.

**BROOKSIDE MALL**



The devastating

# AFTERMATH



**CHURCH STREET**



**Streets of chaos**

The free-for-all looting that took place in Pietermaritzburg on Monday has left a trail of disaster in and around the CBD. Only time will tell when the city's businesses can start rebuilding.  
**PHOTOS: NASH NARRANDES**



**MANOR**



**SOUTHGATE SPAR AND RE-FUEL PETROL STATION ON CHIEF ALBERT LUTHULI STREET**



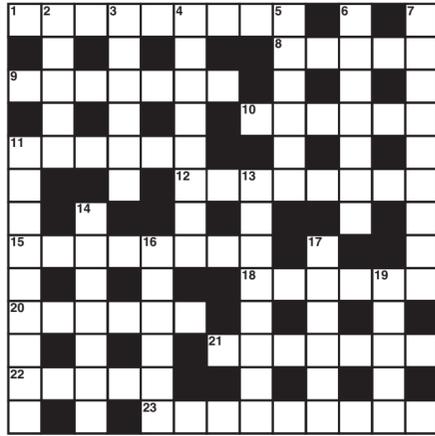
# BRAINSTORM

## WITNESS PUZZLES

### Cryptic Crossword 16670

- Across**  
 1 What makes drips feel so pleased with themselves (4-5)  
 8 A ring in the nose as a halter (5)  
 9 Last we hear of some European language (7)  
 10 Money-making facility (6)  
 11 Partly wash large stone for building (6)  
 12 Nevertheless last (5,3)  
 15 Possibly had a nice estate in South America (8)  
 18 Almost none start before time (6)  
 20 Thin pointed weapon (6)  
 21 He won't stand for his instrument being played (7)  
 22 Less in sum possibly (5)  
 23 They will (9)

- Down**  
 2 Goes out of play (5)  
 3 Last point must be won by the champions (6)  
 4 Check the others have water (8)  
 5 Promise to take part (6)  
 6 Goes with any sort of posy (7)  
 7 Good breeding quality (9)  
 11 Many cheer the reformation of Satan (9)  
 13 A cross-section of the church (8)  
 14 Achieving success with the orchestration (7)  
 16 An extremely self-conscious person (6)  
 17 Village tragedy (6)  
 19 Light beam that's very strong (5)



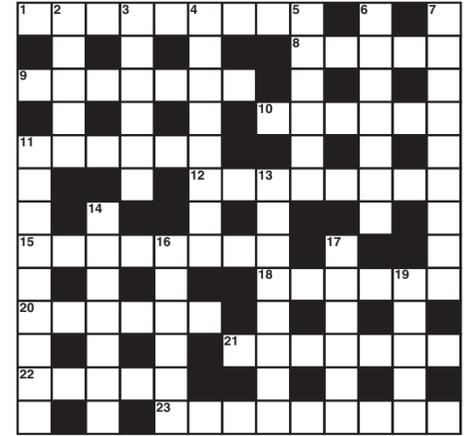
Cryptic Solution 16669

**Across:** 1 Attests, 4 Black, 7 Need, 8 Arsonist, 10 Steady wind, 12 Sublet, 13 Proofs, 15 Monogamist, 18 Crossing, 19 Diva, 20 Sloop, 21 Engines.  
**Down:** 1 Agnes, 2 The Derby, 3 Sprawl, 4 Brown bread, 5 Aria, 6 Ketches, 9 Idle gossip, 11 Dominion, 12 Seances, 14 Pounce, 16 Thais, 17 No go.

### 10-Minute Crossword 16670

- Across**  
 1 Eastern US seaport (9)  
 8 A synthetic fibre (5)  
 9 Woodwork (7)  
 10 Sully (6)  
 11 Uprising (6)  
 12 Besotted admirer (8)  
 15 Block of rented dwellings (8)  
 18 Alliance (6)  
 20 Cutting reply (6)  
 21 Stateliness (7)  
 22 Assemble (5)  
 23 Southeast Asian port (9)

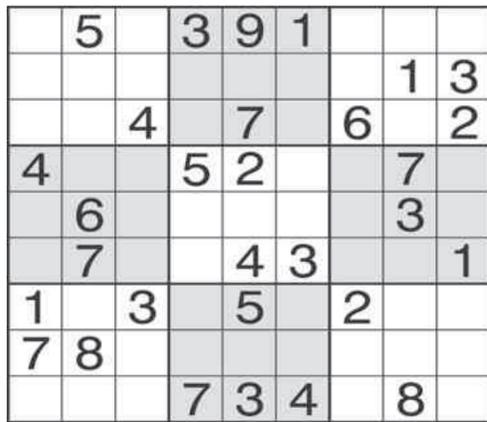
- Down**  
 2 Make amends (5)  
 3 Small-time (6)  
 4 Bordering the sea (8)  
 5 Smooth glossy paint (6)  
 6 Clearness (7)  
 7 Largest city in Alaska (9)  
 11 Major north European port (9)  
 13 Remote from the centre (8)  
 14 As a substitute (7)  
 16 Swamp (6)  
 17 Short light sleep (6)  
 19 Absolute (5)



10-Minute Solution 16669

**Across:** 1 Faction, 4 Coped, 7 Tang, 8 Standing, 10 Hard-boiled, 12 Sachet, 13 Asses, 15 For all that, 18 Michigan, 19 Maim, 20 Cloud, 21 Trident.  
**Down:** 1 Fetch, 2 Contract, 3 Nitwit, 4 Conversely, 5 Prim, 6 Digress, 9 Able-bodied, 11 Rephrase, 12 Seismic, 14 Vacant, 16 Temp, 17 Echo.

### SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution:

5	6	9	3	2	8	7	4	1
2	4	1	7	5	9	6	8	3
8	3	7	6	1	4	5	9	2
4	9	3	2	7	1	8	5	6
1	7	2	5	8	6	9	3	4
6	5	8	9	4	3	1	2	7
3	8	4	1	6	5	2	7	9
7	1	5	4	9	2	3	6	8
9	2	6	8	3	7	4	1	5

For online tips go to [www.knightshill.com](http://www.knightshill.com). This is the world's most addictive numbers game. The aim is to fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. You need to reason out where to place the missing numbers by using the numbers given in the grid and a process of elimination. This is a game of logic not mathematical ability.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

### BRIDGE NOTES

**SOUTH DEALER.**  
 Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ K Q 3  
 ♥ 8 6 5 4  
 ♦ J 10 6  
 ♣ K 8 5

**WEST**  
 ♠ A 10 7 5 4  
 ♥ K 7  
 ♦ K 3 2  
 ♣ A 4 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ J 9 6 2  
 ♥ 3  
 ♦ 8 7  
 ♣ Q J 10 7 6 3

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ 8  
 ♥ A Q J 10 9 2  
 ♦ A Q 9 5 4  
 ♣ 9

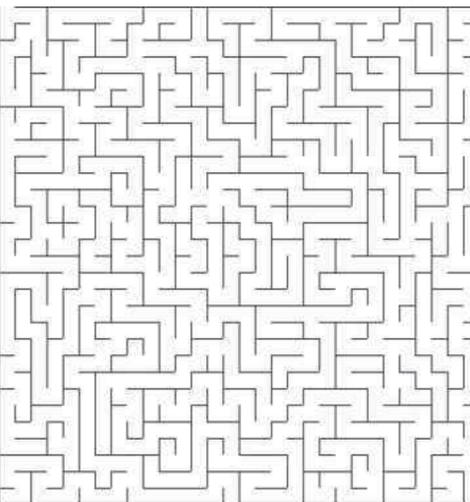
The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 1♥ 1♠ 2♥ 2♠  
 3♦ Pass 4♥

Opening lead – ace of spades.

team that eventually captured the title. **Mahaffey held the South** cards and reached four hearts on the bidding shown. West led the ace of spades, cashed the ace of clubs and exited with a second club. **It appears that declarer** must lose two more tricks to West's red kings and so go down one. But Mahaffey proceeded to demonstrate that this was not true. **He won the club** with dummy's king, discarding a diamond, and discarded two more diamonds on the K-Q of spades. **One obvious line of play** is to take a finesse in hearts and, if it loses, later try a diamond finesse. As can be seen, this fails as the cards lie.

**However, Mahaffey** had paid close attention to the bidding and therefore adopted an approach designed to protect against West's holding both missing kings – a possibility made more likely by West's vulnerable overcall. **At trick six**, he ruffed dummy's last club, then cashed the ace of hearts. When the king did not appear, he continued with a second heart, saddling West with the lead. **This left West** with two losing choices: He could either return a diamond into South's A-Q or lead a spade, allowing declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding the queen of diamonds. Either way, the game was home, giving Mahaffey's team a sizable pickup on the deal.

### INTERMAZE



### ALPINE TREK

Calculate, in sequence, the number of steps each path has to reach the peak. Smallest total is the shortest to the top.

SOLUTION TO THE PREVIOUS ALPINE TREK  
 Shortest path is B with 578 steps

© Auspac Media - 181825

### CODE CRACKER



EACH number in our Code-Cracker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 15 represents M so fill in M every time the figure 15 appears. You have two letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the list of alphabetical letters as you identify them.

**WORDS**

Using the letter A somewhere in every word, can you make at least 69 words of four letters or more out of these letters? At least one word will have all the letters. No proper names.

**A R E T C**  
**T L E R**

Yesterday's answer: alee, alert, alter, artel, artless, careless, carl, cartel, castle, celesta, celt, cereal, claret, class, clear, cleat, creel, earl, easel, eclat, elate, elater, elect, else, lace, laces, lares, lase, laser, lass, last, late, lease, least, leat, leer, leet, less, lesser, lest, rale, ralel, real, reel, relate, resale, rescale, sale, sales, salse, salt, salter, salts, scale, scaler, scales, scarlet, sclera, seal, sealer, seel, select, slat, slate, slater, sleet, stale, steal, stealer, steel, stele, talc, tales, tassel, teal, teasel, tercel, tesla, TRACELESS, treacle, tressel

**NOTICE TO ALL BRIDGE CLUBS:**  
 Please can you email all your Bridge Results:  
[belinda.naidoo@media24.com](mailto:belinda.naidoo@media24.com) AND [graphics@witness.co.za](mailto:graphics@witness.co.za).

### SCRATCHPAD



### MADAM AND EVE



### IT'S IN YOUR STARS

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Parade your accomplishments in front of the right people and someone will probably jump on your bandwagon. Because you are likely good at your job, someone might decide to load you up with more duties.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Give yourself more time. Sudden changes in plans can make something you are doing more difficult. Use your social skills to get past an obstacle that you thought would be hard to navigate.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Your eyes may be bigger than your stomach. Wait until next week to make an expensive purchase, as you might needlessly load up the credit card now. Focus on learning something new and useful.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Someone's take-charge manner could collide with your own important plans. Avoid power struggles during the next several days by being more accommodating and delaying key decisions.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Romantic sparks could fly, but for some people, the joy lies in the thrill of the chase. A friendly flirtation should not be taken too seriously, as it might lead to unnecessary jealousy or friction.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You may become frustrated when you try to convince someone to follow your lead. Temper your enthusiasm and ignore an itch to take on additional duties or take unnecessary risks.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Your warm, friendly attitude can open the right doors. Press forward to achieve key career objectives and put your appetite for success to work in moneymaking activities.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Stick to the script. You may not be able to ad lib successfully if you aren't on the same wavelength as someone. Group politics or peer pressure could force you to tiptoe around some subjects.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You might not share the same viewpoints with someone, but you can still be friends. This is likely not a good time to make a major expenditure or to pursue your career ambitions.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You may be tempted to demonstrate your expertise with your commanding manner. During the next few days, you might intimidate people if you come on too strong. Tone down your ambitions this week.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Steer clear of controversial issues at the office or whenever you are out in public. Certain people are more likely to hold a grudge or become offended by subjects that trigger their anxieties.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You might emit an aura of sensuality that loved ones find hard to resist. Someone at the workplace may be attracted, too, but this could be misconstrued as a flirtation, so watch your step.

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# The Witness SPORT



SA netball skipper Bongli Msomi responded to the current unrest with a Martin Luther King, Jr quote. **More below.**  
**PHOTO: GALLO**

## TV highlights

**SuperSport Variety 1**  
11.45 am: Tour de France: Stage 17  
**SuperSport PS1**  
11.55 am: Cosafa Cup: SEN v MAW  
2.45 pm: Cosafa Cup: RSA v ZAM  
**SuperSport Tennis**  
12.30 pm: Hamburg Open: D3  
**SuperSport Rugby**  
7.50 pm: RSA 'A' v B&I Lions

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

# Podium expectations

Le Clos ready to 'throw kitchen sink' at Olympics after tough time preparing for the Games

**KARIEN JONCKHEERE**

Bearing the name Chad le Clos can be both a burden and a blessing.

The 29-year-old swimmer has reached the Olympic podium on four occasions at the last two Games and as a result, the expectations are sky high as he heads to his third in Tokyo this week.

What those expectant fans don't always realise is that his preparation has been far from ideal — trying to keep in shape during the nationwide lockdown, scrambling around the country once he was allowed in search of a 50 m pool in which to train, jumping through hoops to leave the country and find some racing opportunities in Europe — all with the aim of bringing the nation a much-needed reason to celebrate once again.

Le Clos is never one to make excuses though. He's just not that kind of guy. Instead, he's simply grateful to be competing — come what may in the Tokyo pool in a couple of weeks.

"It hasn't been easy to travel and get access to 50-metre pools, especially in Durban and Cape Town. So it was a bit of a struggle in the beginning of the year but I got on the road at the end of May and I've been to eight countries in the last six weeks so it's been crazy for me," he explained from Dubai before



Chad le Clos.

heading to Tokyo this week.

"I was lucky enough to squirm my way out of South Africa, get a hundred different papers from the president of Portugal to get me into Europe, then get out of Europe because my days are numbered.

"Just to be here has been a real blessing and a real privilege because obviously we haven't really had the opportunity to travel and to do some proper racing

on the European circuit like we usually do. I think you feel a lot of gratitude.

"If anything, the lockdown and Covid have taught us to be grateful for the things that you have and some of the things that you may have lost because the world is different now."

Le Clos claimed silver in the 200 m freestyle in Rio five years ago and another silver in the 100 m butterfly, but missed out on the podium in the 200 m

butterfly — the event in which he sensationally beat American superstar Michael Phelps in 2012.

Heading into the Tokyo Games, he's nowhere near the top of the rankings, however.

In the 200 m butterfly Le Clos has the 40th fastest time in the world this year, and in the 100 m butterfly he's 108th, with even young compatriot Matt Sates ranked above him. But that's all under-

standable considering how little racing he's done. It's also not of too much concern to the experienced Le Clos, who is known as one of the best racers around, and one who rises to the occasion.

The men who have been dominating his events in recent years are Hungary's world record holder Kristof Milak in the 200 m butterfly and American world record holder Caleb Dressel in the 100 m.

"You know me I'm always looking at what the other guys are doing, even during the race I'm looking at them," joked Le Clos when asked about whether he was keeping an eye on what his rivals have been up to.

During a recent stint in Budapest, he even asked if he could train with Milak.

"I'm always trying to race the best, I don't shy away from the challenge, I look forward to meeting Caleb and Milak right in the centre of the pool.

"I believe, they are exceptional talents, let's just say it how it is, they're the best ever in their events."

"I have a mountain to climb because these kids are so fast and they're much, much better than me on paper, but I've said it before, the race is not won of the paper. I will do everything possible to try and stay ahead in all of those races, I'll throw the kitchen sink at it."



Lesotho's Motebang Sera tackles SA's Njabulo Ngcobo (right) during the Cosafa Cup at Nelson Mandela Stadium yesterday. **PHOTO: GALLO**

## SA into Cosafa Cup semis

Bafana Bafana progressed to the Cosafa Cup semi-finals after thrashing Lesotho 4-0 in their penultimate Group A clash at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium yesterday.

Ethan Brooks missed out through injury as Yusuf Maart was given the start while Njabulo Ngcobo and Victor Letsoalo got their first appearances at senior international level.

The changes certainly paid in the early exchanges as Sifiso Ngobeni's cross from the left flank found Letsaolo, who sent a powerful header past Lesotho goalkeeper Jessy Matsie.

The lead was doubled in the 20th minute when Matsie was only able to parry Nyiko Mobbie's powerful effort into the path of Sphelile Mkhulise, who knocked the ball into an empty goal from six-yards.

Likuena did see a bit more of the ball in the latter stages of the first half, but they did not do enough in the final third to trouble Veli Mothwa between

the sticks, while Monnapule Saleng cracked the woodwork at the other from a set-piece. There was enough time for a third goal before the break, when Letsaolo profited from an error before showing great composure to lift the ball over Matsie.

The South Africans carried that momentum into the second half and found a fourth goal on 56 minutes when a deflected free-kick landed in the path of Dube, who did well to set up Letsaolo for his hat-trick.

South Africa rang the changes soon after as Ayabulela Konqobe, Mashweu Mphahlele and Thabang Sibanyoni were introduced for the final 25 minutes of the encounter.

In the end, four goals were enough for South Africa to book their spot in the final four with a game to spare, which is against Zambia today. Zambia beat Botswana 2-1 yesterday, Senegal defeated Zimbabwe 2-1, while Malawi and Namibia draw 1-1 and — WR.

## 'RASHFORD WILL BOUNCE BACK'

England forward Marcus Rashford will bounce back from missing the penalty in their shootout loss to Italy in the Euro 2020 final, Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said.

Substitutes Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka all missed spot kicks in the 3-2 shootout loss after the game ended 1-1 following extra time as England's hopes of winning a first major trophy in 55 years ended in heartbreak.

Solskjaer is confident Rashford will step again step forward to take spot kicks.

You know the thing is when you

step up to take a penalty, I think you've already won," Solskjaer told United's website.

"You've taken on the responsibility and I'm sure many of the players are hoping I don't want to take a penalty. So I think it's a great character trait to step up and say I will deal with it, (and) the consequences. You learn from it and definitely come back stronger."

Rashford apologised for his penalty miss on Monday but said he "will never apologise for who I am" after he, Sancho and Saka, all Black players, suffered racist abuse on social media after the final. — Reuters.

## KONRAD'S SOLO RIDE WINS STAGE 16

Austrian cyclist Patrick Konrad (Bora-Hansgrohe) yesterday broke away from the chasers to lead the pack for 35 km and claim Stage 16 in the Tour de France.

Italy's Sonny Colbrelli (Bahrain Victorious) and Australia's Michael Matthews (BikeExchange) completed

the podium. The stage saw a brief stop after riders needed to change out of hot clothes at the end of the cold downhill neutral start.

Tadej Pogacar of UAE Team Emirates remains in the overall lead, ahead of Uran Uran Rigoberto of EF Education-Nippo. — WR.



## SA golfers ready to tee off at St George's

Sunshine Tour officials have wished 'Good luck to all our South African players competing in the 149th Open Championship at Royal St George's Golf Club this week' on Twitter yesterday. The opening round of the British golf showpiece at the top venue in Surrey, England, takes place tomorrow. **PHOTO: SUNSHINE TOUR**

## Bulls step in to give SA 'A' side more time on the field

**BRENDEL NEL**

The defending Currie Cup champions, the Bulls, will be heading to Cape Town to provide opposition for the Springboks this weekend so they can get more game time.

While the Springboks originally wanted an extra game for the South African "A" side against the touring British and Irish Lions before the three-Test series begins, this has been turned down by the touring team, despite SA Rugby's director of rugby Rassie Erasmus "begging" for the fixture to be played.

Instead, the Springboks have asked the Bulls to step in and the Pretoria side, who missed their game against the Lions because of a Covid-19 outbreak, have complied and will travel to Cape Town to help out the national side.

Officially, the Bulls will face the SA "A" side on Saturday, but it will be a



Faf de Klerk passes the ball during the South Africa 'A' captain's run at Cape Town Stadium yesterday. **PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES**

Bok trial game in every aspect.

The Bulls also haven't played in weeks and will enjoy the hit-out, while some fringe players are on the radar of the Bok squad, like Cornal Hendricks and Marcell Coetzee, and will be able to try to catch the eye of the national selectors.

The Boks will need the hit-out as their second Test against Georgia was canned because both sides had a Covid-19 outbreak in their camps and so they are underdone in terms of match preparation at the moment.

They have played only one match together in 20 months and will relish the opportunity to be together for another game before the Test series starts.

Erasmus picked a virtual Test side for today's SA "A" game against the tourists, but wants another game for the Boks to have enough time on the field before the crucial first Test against the Lions. — SuperSport.

## Sports stars comment on unrest

**CARL PETERS**

South African sports personalities and organisations were as troubled as ordinary citizens by the continued civil unrest in the country yesterday and had plenty to say about it on social media.

Most expressed sheer outrage at the state of lawlessness, with some quite critical or analytical of the situation and others calling for people to pray for peace in the land. Here are some comments:

Former AmaZulu chief executive **Lunga Sokhela**: "We have to deal with dying economy. The looting is as a result of that. Government stop dilly dallying and make Radical Change. If we don't, the country will regress and become another failed African State."

Athletics commentator **Cuan Walker**: Cyril's speech did NOTHING last night. Since the early hours of the morning Makro and Springfield are being emptied and not a cop or army in sight."

SA netball skinner **Bongli Msomi** retweeting Jo Prins: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. — Martin Luther King, Jr."

**Comrades Marathon Association**: "Let us unite and pray for South Africa and her people today."

Mamelodi Sundowns coach **Steve Komphela**: "I cannot imagine the morning I wake up and there's no bakery around, no tuckshop, no filling station for fuel and thus a complete inconvenience, no life for me. As I destroy what I need, I must not expect a better and convenient tomorrow. I have just made my life more difficult."

Former Proteas player **Aaron Phangiso**: "Black Africans in powerful positions let us down. They look after themselves and forget where they come from."

Springbok great **John Smit**: "Pretty weird being Vida's only customer this morning at the airport!!!"

## Hamilton hopes a more diverse F1 will be his legacy

Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton (**pictured**) says he wants to be remembered for "helping people and changing the industry and the viewpoints" after the publication of his report into improving diversity in motorsport.

Britain's seven-time world champion was spurred into action after noticing the lack of diversity in an end-of-season photograph in 2019 and subsequently set up the Hamilton Commission.

Hamilton (36) has taken the knee before every race since the beginning of last season and has persuaded his Mercedes team to paint its cars black to highlight discrimination.

The commission's report, Accelerating Change: Improving Representation of Black People in UK Motorsport, asks for a diversity and inclusion char-



ter to be implemented by F1 teams and other motorsport organisations.

Expanding the apprenticeship provision to include higher apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships as an alternate pathway into the sector are

among the other suggestions to attempt to draw in under-represented groups to F1.

Paid work placement and work experience schemes, as well as supporting the creation of scholarship programmes to enable black graduates from degrees to progress into specialist motorsport roles have also been proposed. Hamilton, the only black driver in Formula One, told the BBC he hoped the findings would be "part of my legacy."

"I would like to be remembered for much more than winning championships, which is an amazing thing on its own, but for actually helping people and changing the industry and the viewpoints," he said.

"We are all the same. We all bleed the same. There is no reason why it shouldn't be as diverse as the world

around us. "All it takes is the shift of the needle and then in the long distance that can be a whole continent's size. It could be huge."

Hamilton said the commission, which included experts in motorsport, education and engineering, had found that obstacles for black people ran deeper than issues in gaining access to the sport.

"We realise it's not just the motorsport industry that needs to change," said Hamilton. "We found there are still systemic issues facing young black people at all levels of the education system."

Defending champion Hamilton, preparing for this weekend's British Grand Prix, trails leader Max Verstappen by 32 points after nine rounds of the 2021 championship. — AFP.

## Tokyo governor says city's systems are ready for Games

TOKYO — Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike said yesterday a sufficient number of hospitals, combined with a faster vaccination rollout among the elderly meant the city will be able to hold "safe and secure" Olympics in 10 days.

But Koike, speaking to Reuters in an interview at the Tokyo government headquarters, which has for the last few weeks doubled as a vaccination site, also warned that the coronavirus pandemic is far from over and the spreading Delta variant remains a risk. "Very many people will be vaccinated in the coming 10 days and during the Olympics."

"The biggest change as a result of that will be a substantive fall in the ratio of deaths and severe cases among the elderly," Koike said. "Because of that, and because the



Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike. **PHOTO: GETTY**

medical system is ready, I think we can press ahead with a safe Olympics," said Koike, who has returned to work after a brief break due to fatigue during which she was admitted

to hospital. The Japanese capital entered its fourth state of emergency on Monday, causing bars and restaurants to close early, amid a rebound in Covid-19 cases that also pushed the Games organisers last week to ban spectators from nearly all venues.

Spectators from abroad were already banned months ago, and officials are now asking residents to watch the Games on TV to keep the movement of people to a minimum.

"It's very sad that the Games are being held without spectators," said Koike.

"It's clear we'll be able to lower the risks (because of that), but the spectators are also very important for the athletes and give them a big boost."

"It's a big shame that we have to hold the Olympics without them."



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