

Coligny still a hot spot

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THERE was no schooling, business or peace in Coligny yesterday.

This was despite attempts by political leaders to calm the situation.

Mpho Motlhabane, the North West MEC for Public Safety, addressed the community but his pleas for calm fell on deaf ears. The residents wanted to hear nothing except that the farmers suspecting of killing a young boy be put back behind bars.

Police were kept busy as protesters burned tyres and blocked the N14 and all entrances to Tlhabologang.

Motlhabane promised residents that lawyers would help the family get the court to reverse the bail decision.

Cops were also on high alert in Eldorado Park and Freedom Park, Gauteng yesterday following Monday's service delivery protests.

The situation remained calm, with the areas on shutdown.

The Gauteng Department of Human Settlements called for talks with the unhappy communities of region G in Joburg, which covers Eldorado Park, Ennerdale, Lawley and Lenasia.

Spokesman Keith Khoza said: "It is regrettable that a legitimate protest spiralled out of control, resulting in the looting of businesses and violence."

Gauteng police commissioner Lieutenant-General Deliwe de Lange said 50 people had been arrested in Eldorado Park while looting shops in protests over housing.

Main Reef Road in Joburg came to a standstill yesterday as residents from Meadowlands, Soweto protested.

They claimed mayor Herman Mashaba was supposed to address them on Thursday but didn't turn up.

Mashaba's spokesman, Tony Taverna-Turisan, denied the allegation and said it was all a political game.

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Coligny protesters block highway

POLICE fired teargas to disperse a group of protesters blocking the N14 highway in Coligny, North West, yesterday.

The protesters, armed with rocks and using corrugated iron sheets as shields, blocked the highway with tyres and steel objects.

The police removed the objects on the road, as protesters pelted them with stones. The police fired teargas to disperse the group.

The group were apparently not happy about the outcome of a meeting with North West Community Safety MEC Dr Mpho

Motlhabane on what had been done to restore law and order in Coligny.

An unruly group had chanted before Motlhabane arrived for the public meeting in Tlhabologang

and they later heckled him when he briefly addressed the meeting.

The protesters wanted to know why two farmers, accused of killing a teenager, had been granted bail.

One man told Motlhabane that Chris Mahlangu, who had been convicted

of killing Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) leader Eugene Terre'Blanche, had not been granted bail.

Motlhabane told the meeting that processes were unfolding to appeal against the decision to grant Pieter Doorewaard, 26, and Phillip Schutte, 34, bail.

The two are accused of killing Matlhomola Jonas Mosweu, 16, last month after accusing him of stealing sunflowers from their employer's sunflower crop field.

The pair alleged that Matlhomola had jumped out of a moving van and sustained fatal neck injuries.

However, an eyewitness told the police that Matlhomola was thrown out of the moving van.

The case against the two accused was postponed to June 26.

Residents say they want the men's bail revoked.

North West police said no arrests had been made since fresh protests started on Monday. Three houses were torched after the two men were granted bail. - ANA

Police fire teargas to disperse group