

Coligny still on k

ELFAS TORERAI

POLICE maintained a huge presence as they continued to monitor a tense but relatively calm situation in Coligny yesterday.

Schools remained closed and pupils could be seen milling around in the streets of the small mining town that gripped the nation's attention on Monday. In town, the only sign of business activity was at one service station, the rest were closed.

Foreign nationals were seen pleading with authorities and the police to protect their business after a looting spree.

The provincial government was on the ground, making frantic efforts to end a racial stand-off that threatens to turn ugly.

At a community meeting held in Tlhabologang township, residents vowed that nothing short of sending Pieter Doorenwaard, 26, and Phillip Schutte, 32, back to jail will placate their anger. Doorwaard and Schutte were arrested for the murder of 16-year-old Matlhomola Moshoeu but were released on bail on Monday, sparking wild protests.

Several buildings and maize fields were torched and in some instances, shops were looted. Residents said children would remain out of school until their demands were met.

However, one community member, who did not want to be named, said: "I'm getting worried that the longer we disturb the school calendar, the more we subject our children to the same kind of life we are leading. This is leading us nowhere."

Community safety and transport



SLINGSHOT PROTEST: Coligny residents are demanding justice for Matlhomola Moshoeu. PICTURE: MPHILWANE

management MEC Dr Mokgantsang Motlhabane urged residents to calm down and trust in the governments plans for the area.

"The Bokone Bophirima provincial government is establishing the Coligny reconciliation, healing and renewal forum. The forum will be comprised of stakeholders in Coligny and will strive to bring lasting peace and stability through the programmes that will constitute part of the forum. We want

you to give space to this development," Motlhabane said.

A community leader, who also speaks on behalf of the Moshoeu family, Stanny Mnyakama said that it was for the best that all forms of violent protests cease.

"We have requested school children to go back to class because the mid-year examinations are fast approaching.

We also need to have health facilities operating because as it is, the town is on lock down," Mnyakama said.

He said they were happy provincial government had their bid to appeal the grant bail to the two accused murder case.

"However, what our people understood is that bail is not

"The case will be heard on What is needed, that we than vincial government for, is a st of advocates representing th
elfast@theneu

MEC FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETS WITH ANGRY RESIDENTS

10/05/17 The Citizen Pg 3 Des @ Tm 903

NW provincial government to appeal bail for Col

Steven Tau

The North West provincial government yesterday announced that it has started engaging with its legal team to appeal the decision by the Coligny Magistrate's Court to grant bail to two men accused of the death of a 16-year-old, Matlhomola Mosweu.

Addressing angry residents of Coligny yesterday, MEC for community safety Mpho Motlhabane said the provincial government was also against the decision to grant Pieter Doorewaard and Phillip Schutte R5 000 bail each.

"We will be launching an urgent appeal and are also urging every community member to work closely with us so that we can also deal with the complaints you have raised regarding police

cases that you have opened, but were never followed up on.

"The premier (Supra Mahumapelo) will be coming to Coligny on Friday to bring you up to speed with regards to some of the decisions that have been taken to address all the concerns you have raised," he said.

However, when Motlhabane urged residents to work together with the police, irate residents said the police and white people had been shooting at them. "How can you expect us to work with these people?" they asked.

The government officials wasted no time leaving the local sports ground where they addressed community members.

Ahead of the meeting, police officers were also told they were not going to be allowed inside the sports ground.

Contrary to Monday, when two houses were set alight and another two partially burnt, the situation was calmer for the better part of yesterday. But just after lunchtime violent protests erupted again when protesters threw stones at the police, who retaliated with rubber bullets and tear gas.

The violent protests were sparked by the judgment that was delivered in court, with disgruntled residents vowing to bring the entire town to standstill.

Police officers had their hands full trying to defuse the volatile situation late on Monday night.

Traffic on the busy N14 highway from Ventersdorp towards Coligny and Lichtenburg also had to be diverted as protesters were throwing stones and petrol bombs in the direction of passing motorists.



UNHAPPY. Community members gathered at the sports ground, where they were addressed by religious leaders. Picture: Nige