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Service delivery protests could resurface - HSRC

Rahima Essop | 7 Hours Ago

The Human Sciences Research Council on Tuesday warned that the state can expect protests over poor basic services to resurface, after the World Cup.

There was a spate of protests in Gauteng and other parts of the country before the tournament with some frustrated demonstrators even threatening to disrupt the World Cup. But those threats have not materialised.

The HSRC's Udesh Pillay said it appears protestors have suspended their demonstrations during the World Cup.

He said people are actually celebrating the event with pride and patriotism. But after the World Cup, service delivery issues will resurface.

"Reality will hit home on the 12 of July when I have no doubt whatsoever that service delivery protests and increased negotiations over better wages and working conditions will resume," said Pillay.

There are also concerns about a fresh wave of xenophobic violence after the tournament.

Meanwhile, after the World Cup government is likely to face questions about how it could build stadiums on time but not hospitals and houses.

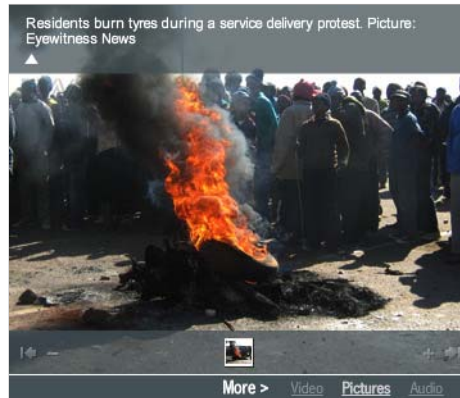
Pillay said once the tournament is over people with service delivery woes will no doubt hold government accountable

"Government will see heightened level of service delivery protests come the 12th of July," said Pillay.

Researcher David Hemson said momentum is already starting to grow in some informal settlements.

"I know that in a number of areas people have been campaigning to draw attention to their needs but I do think that it is like organising a protest during Christmas," said Hemson.

He said people in poor communities people will expect to benefit in some way from the World Cup.



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