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Local News | Cape Town

Cape service delivery protest flare-up 'unusual'

Regan Thaw | Yesterday

Metro Police officers are increasing patrols in Nyanga following a series of violent service delivery protests.

Several people were arrested on Sunday after a group of disgruntled protestors went on the rampage.

Deputy Metro Police Chief Yolanda Faro said officers are also being targeted during the demonstrations.

She added, "...seven suspects were arrested for public violence during protest action... Two of our metro police officers were injured after the group pelted stones at patrol vehicles."

POLITICAL TENSIONS MAY BE TO BLAME

Meanwhile, the Human Sciences Research Council on Monday said the nature of service delivery protests appears to be changing in the Western Cape and that the recent flare-up in protest action in the province is unusual.

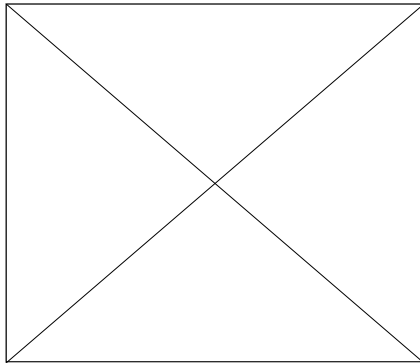
The council said ongoing political mud-slinging between the Democratic Alliance-led provincial government and the ANC may be contributing to an increase in mass-action.

The council's David Hemson said previous studies showed protests tended to drop in the weeks and days leading up to local government elections.

"Pre-election there's been usually something of a quieter period. So we're entering into an unusual period..." he explained.

The DA, which also controls the Cape Town City Council, has come under fire in recent weeks for its handling of the Hangberg eviction debacle.

Hemson said the Makhaza toilet saga and housing shortages may also be to blame for raising tensions.



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