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'Violent protests are a carryover from apartheid'

ANALYST: TRADING SERVICE DELIVERY FOR VOTES IS A DANGEROUS GAME

STEVEN TAU

The growing number of violent protests over poor service delivery shows that South Africa is an angry nation in need of a message of hope.

And more of the same is to come, according to political analyst Professor Sipho Seepe.

Commenting on the numerous violent protests that have been recorded this year countrywide, he said politicians should stop making empty promises to the masses.

"All political parties are playing a dangerous game when they promise people that they will de-

liver if they vote for them."

Seepe said the violence seen in some of the protests was a continuation of a culture inherited from the days of apartheid.

"We still hear people saying they will make the country ungovernable if their demands are not met, and the protests have been a collective failure by the governors and the governed."

He said politicians should instead start saying how best we can all work together to ensure everyone is empowered and able to take care of their families.

"Government can not do everything on its own. It is therefore important for politicians to say to people 'let us work

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Some of the protests that rocked the country this year:

- Recently, angry residents of Bekkersdal, on the West Rand, went on the rampage, burning and damaging municipal property. They were demanding that the Westonaria local municipality be placed under administration.
- Children were barred from going to school by disgruntled residents who accused the managers of the local municipality of maladministration and nepotism.
- Children as young as 14 were in the front line, engaging in running

battles with the police.

- In Limpopo, residents of Malamulele also took to the streets, demanding that government respond to their call for an independent municipality, separate from Thulamela.
- In another protest last week in the Eastern Cape, irate protesters in Uitenhage looted shops and burnt a municipal health and wellness office, an ANC house and offices of the Democratic Alliance.

together',” Seepe said.

“What should have happened, post-apartheid, was engagement

between leaders and the public on how to take the country forward.”

He added that people were say-

ing “enough is enough”.

“These protests, engineered by the same people from the political parties, are likely to continue in the build-up to next year’s general elections,” he warned.

Sasria, an insurance company covering special risks and damages caused by riots, strikes, labour disturbances and service delivery protests, claims that for the past few years 95% of all claims stemmed from social unrest related to service delivery and labour strikes.

Sasria chairman MA Samie wrote in his chairman’s message in the 2013 Integrated Report that the company did not foresee this changing in the near future. “Over the last 12 months alone, we have seen an increase of 91% in Sasria’s claims frequency, driven primarily by labour strikes.”