

Dealership loses 20 cars in rioting

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WIND Motors, caught in the whirlwind of the Sea Cow Lake protests, was celebrating its 25th anniversary this week, but is now counting the cost of the damage to its property.

The car scrapyard and parts dealership is in Sea Cow Lake Road, across the road from the Department of Health's Durban and Coastal Laundry, which was also damaged in Monday's rioting.

Pari Gounden, manageress at Wind Motors, said damage was estimated to be between R3million and R5m.

Twenty cars, including a new Jaguar, were lost. It is alleged that the fire spread from a truck into the motor and spare part dealership.

A BMW was pushed out of the yard and set alight after rioters intimidated one of their guards.

"They looted our offices. Who is responsible for the damages? Who do we charge?" Gounden asked. "We have not received an apology from the government, yet we pay our rates and taxes. We hope to claim through Sasria," Gounden said.

Sasria (South African Special Risks Insurance Association) is a state-owned company and short-term insurer.

Looters took computers, telephones, cables, tea and sugar containers, mag rims and car radios.

"We have a staff of 10. We will have to rebuild the business," Gounden said.

Greenwood Park police have registered cases of malicious damage to property.

