

More to services than water

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The term “service delivery protests” may be misleading and is in many senses reflective of a broader socioeconomic experience of ordinary South Africans, Deputy Finance Minister Mcebisi Jonas has said.

“The problem with service delivery is that you would think it’s about water ... but it’s broader than that, it relates to our impact on transforming the country, our impact on creating jobs ... and you cannot have a silver bullet to solve that.”

He was speaking on the sidelines of state owned entity Sasria SOC Limited’s presentation of its fourth annual integrated report at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in Sandton yesterday. Sasria was established by the government, with the SA Insurance Association, as a provider of insurance cover for political risks such as riots and terrorism.

The annual report, said Jonas, showed “the fact that our economy had not been creating jobs, and the fact our economy has been growing very slowly”.

“... Our skills programmes have not been working very well.”

Sasria’s claims frequency increased by 54%, this year. Its claims severity increased by 25%.

Jonas said in improving the situation, artisan developmental programmes might be critical. But the need to improve education and the education impact will be important in delivering programmes.

Asked if the educational sector had been doing well, he added: “It’s a mixed bag, in the sense that you have interesting areas of centres of excellence.

“South Africa must break away from thinking that education must be delivered by the state only. The skills required might better be delivered by the private sector and the state working together.”

