

# High cost to student protests

DIKELEDI RAMABOPA

THE South African Special Risks Insurance Association (Sasria) says 15% of the claims relating to motor vehicles received in the past six months were linked to damage caused in the course of the violent #FeesMustFall protests.

Sasria spokesperson Thokozile Mahlangu said that most of the vehicle claims received were from individuals who had claimed under their own policies.

"In regards to the torched buildings at institutions a few cases have been reported to us but most universities are still compiling their claims", Mahlangu said.

"For the six months of our new financial year April-September we have received claims as a result of student riots to the value of R170m. R50m of this was as a result of the #FeesMustFall protests."

Sasria said that they were in the process of paying out an estimated R150m as the claims were still being submitted.

Meanwhile, Prof Ahmed Bawa, spokesperson for Universities South Africa (USA), said that they did not yet have consolidated new figures for damage to infrastructure.

"We think that the cost of damage



**REBELLION** Sasria says 15% of recent claims are as a result of the #FeesMustFall protests. PICTURE: NADINE FORD-KRITZINGER

to infrastructure is now in excess of R700m. Universities are still assessing the damage and damage is ongoing," Bawa said.

The #FeesMustFall protests erupted at universities and colleges across the country following the announcement

by Minister of Higher Education and Training Blade Nzimande that there will be a fee increment of a maximum of 8% for 2017. But this would only affect students whose household income exceeded R600 000 per annum.

Students want free education for all.

