

# Violent strikes and protests 'increasing'

THELMA NGOMA

**SERVICE** delivery protests and strikes are on the rise and becoming increasingly violent.

Municipal IQ, a specialised local government data and intelligence organisation, says 86% of service delivery protests have been characterised by violence and further chaos can be expected in communities that are unhappy with services in their areas.

Annelie Smith, a corporate executive at Risk Benefit Solutions, says strikes in both the private and public sectors are hurting businesses severely. She said one way for businesses to protect themselves from protest-related risks was by making use of cover provided by the South African Special Risk Insurance Association (Sasria).

"Sasria is a state-owned short-term insurance company, providing specialised risk cover for material damage

and business interruption by riots, strikes, terrorism, civil commotion and public disorder to corporate, commercial and individual policyholders.

"Most businesses already have short-term insurance but civil unrest protection is often excluded from these policies and is offered, rather, as an optional add-on."

Sasria has seen a 54% increase in claims in the past year alone.

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