

Sasria ready to pay claims for looting

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Sasria is liquid and ready to honour claims, the state-owned insurer responsible for paying out claims linked to the unrest and looting in the country said on Friday.

This was after Business Unity South Africa (Busa) claimed Sasria would not have sufficient resources to pay compensation for all the damage caused.

Cedric Masondo, chief executive of Sasria, said the company, the only short-term insurer that provides special risk cover to all individuals and businesses that own assets in South Africa, as well as government entities, has never experienced riots, violence and looting of this magnitude in its history of 42 years.

"We have been deeply concerned since the outbreak of these riots," said Masondo.

"We are hard at work attending to the concerns raised by our clients and are attending to the claims we have received to date.

"We would like to assure our clients, partners and stakeholders that our internal systems, curated to respond with the necessary agility, are ready."

He added that Sasria was

working closely with other insurance companies to ensure the payment of claims that have started coming through, especially from individuals and small businesses, were fast-tracked.

"It must be noted it is still unsafe to travel to some of the hotspots. That means the assessments would take time, especially the big claims."

Masondo encouraged clients to follow the normal claims process and submit their claims through their insurers or brokers.

At this stage, the full value of Sasria claims as a result of the riots has not been determined as most claims have not been reported yet.

"We will have a clearer picture in about two months' time."

He said Sasria management has started engaging the National Treasury and the Prudential Authority about possible solutions should the worst-case scenario in terms of the value of the damages materialise.

Ricardo Coetzee, head of Auto & General Insurance, said Auto & General would make interim payments to customers while they wait for their Sasria claims to be finalised.

