

Protests are the order of the day!

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ANGER over lack of services boiled over yesterday and residents took their issues to the one place they know government pays attention – the streets.

In Sekgosese, Limpopo, a protest has been going on for two days after residents blocked the R81 road to Tzaneen.

And in Gauteng residents of Thembelihle squatter camp in Lenasia clashed with cops when they threw stones at officers, who responded with rubber bullets.

■ Traffic between Polokwane, Giyani and Modjadjiskloof was disrupted since Tuesday morning, when Sekgosese residents barricaded the road with stones and other objects.

The residents said they could not get a straight an-

swer from government on when they would get their road tarred, and accused Roads Agency Limpopo of breaking its promise to tar the 18km gravel road which connects their villages – Rotterdam and Sephukubye – to services.

Protest leader Themba Mahlaule said: “We chose this busy area to protest because government will take us seriously.”

Joshua Kwapa, a spokesman for public works, said: “The MEC, roads agency CEO Matji Maselaganye and Tzaneen’s mayor, Dikeledi Mmetle, spoke about an intervention plan and approached the provincial treasury for additional funds.”

Limpopo police spokesman Colonel Moatshe Ngoepe said that public order police were sent to the area. A truck was burnt out and cases of ma-

licious damage to property and public violence were being investigated by Modjadji cops.

■ In Gauteng a battle raged between Thembelihle residents and the cops when protesters blocked roads with burning tyres and rocks.

Somnandi Nyikisa (35) said: “City of Joburg workers came and put in toilets that need constant drainage, but then failed to maintain them.

“They have not been drained for more than two months. The smell is overwhelming. We do not even have proper houses.”

City of Joburg’s Nthatise Madingoane said Metro cops were at the scene.

Madingoane said the City had been talking to the Thembelihle crisis committee and an agreement was reached on Monday to meet with the MMC for housing today.

postponed to this coming yesterday.



A truck was burnt out on the R81 to Giyani by violent protesters demanding a tarred road.

Photo by Joshua Sebola



Thembelihle squatters took to the streets yesterday, demanding services from the City of Joburg.

Photo by Lucky Morajane