



■ Matters became very heated for a while.

Children also used during protests

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“Following that meeting, City officials conducted a site visit with the community leaders on May 10.

“As a part of the process, the officials showed the community leaders the three proposed pieces of land which could be developed for the benefit of the people of Vrygrond.

“This proposal was rejected by the community leaders.”

Ms De Lille said the City was prepared to listen to any community’s grievances but they had to be expressed in a peaceful way.

“Individuals who use people’s genuine concerns to stoke violence and stir up racial tensions should also be condemned...

“But we cannot allow entire communities to be held to ransom by the actions of a few.”

But Ms De Lille did not say what exactly would be done, by whom or when. And while her comment addressed the land issues and the criminal element, there was no acknowledgement or answer from the City on the issue of the alleged under-payment of EPWP staff.

Responding to Marina da Gama residents’ accusations that

the police response to public violence in the area was inadequate, Muizenberg police spokesman Captain Stephen Knapp said children were at most of the protests in the Vrygrond area and that posed a problem for police.

“Children should not be exposed to any dangerous situations,” he said.

“We would like to urge residents to remain in their homes during these incidents and allow the police to control the situation.”

During the protest, many Vrygrond children were seen being told to bring more tyres or scrap to add to the fire.

Asked if that constituted child neglect or abuse, Captain Knapp said: “The reckless endangerment of any minor by an adult is a criminal offence. The use of minors by adults during a protest could be viewed as such.”

Hard-pressed for answers from a fuming constituency, ward councillor Aimee Kuhl called an emergency meeting on Wednesday night to discuss the crisis with Ward 64 residents.

The False Bay Echo will report back on the outcome of the meeting.