

# People demand promised jobs and clean water



Main picture: Mtubatuba residents dug up this road. Inserts, from left: Hlabisa residents damaged municipal doors and the guards' booth.

# DELIVER NOW . . . OR ELSE!

By **XOLILE NKOSI**

**THE SERVICE** delivery protest in two municipalities that form part of the Umkhanyakude District Municipality has intensified.

Residents of Hlabisa, northern KZN, burnt the security guards' booth on Wednesday.

Police spokesman Lieutenant Thulani Zwane said a case of arson was opened.

The residents are demanding jobs they were allegedly promised during election campaigns early this year.

They said the number of unemployed people in their area is very high.

One resident (51) said the municipality must come up with a plan to create jobs.

"We want what was promised to us. Talking time is over. We want to see results."

Another resident, Sizwe Lukhele (28), said they won't even bother to study further as they know they won't get jobs even after completing their education.

Hlabisa mayor Comfort Khumalo told *Daily Sun* he was disappointed that residents damaged a municipal building after meeting them on Monday.

"On Friday, we found a group of people blocking the entrance to the municipality, demanding to be hired for the expanded public works programme.

"I asked for a meeting with them on Monday to explain how the programme

worked and they left the meeting before it even finished," said Khumalo.

Meanwhile, Mtubatuba residents intensified their protest about the shortage of clean water by digging up tar roads.

Umkhanyakude spokesman Mdu Dlamini said efforts to supply clean water to all residents in the district were hampered by illegal connections.

"We are going to meet residents today to address this challenge," said Dlamini.

Zwane said the situation was tense in Hlabisa and Mtubatuba. "On Monday, police arrested 40 suspects for public violence. Thirty-eight suspects were kept in custody, while two were released on warnings," he said.