

■ METRO

Shutdown protesters, police clash

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SEVERAL roads in and around Cape Town were closed yesterday morning due to protest action organised by the #TotalShutdown movement.

Police spokesperson George Mjiwu said a case of public violence was under investigation after 150 violent protesters blocked the roads at the corners of Lavis Drive and 35th Avenue, Bishop Lavis, yesterday.

Mjiwu said one taxi was impounded, one arrest made and police had to use stun grenades and rubber bullets to disperse the violent crowd after they refused to leave after requests.

The shutdown organisers said picketing took place in Bishop Lavis, Hanover Park, Bonteheuwel, Elsie's River, Beacon Valley, Tafelsig, Khayelitsha and Paarl.

One of the organisers, Nadia Mayman De Grass, said the movement was clear about its demands.

"We need a public works programme at a living wage to improve the lives of our youth. We need more social workers and other professionals to assist our communities to deal with issues such as gender-based violence."

De Grass said they also needed quality health care. "We need free drug rehabilitation centres and more recreational facilities as viable alternatives to the current social ills."

She added that they needed more and better-equipped teachers to deal with the challenges of education.

Their demands included a review of the criminal justice system to adequately protect the survivors and not the perpetrators of crime.

Meanwhile, hundreds of residents in Paarl marched to the Drakenstein municipality buildings demanding a decrease in high municipal tariffs and wanted a reversal of the new indigent policy.

Bonteheuwel ward councillor Angus McKenzie said residents had completely disregarded various attempts and invitations from the Shutdown people.