

Protest flares near Springfield

TWO municipal trucks were set alight and municipal employees were attacked by protesters near Springfield yesterday.

Police spokesperson Captain Thulani Zwane confirmed the incident, saying it is alleged that "angry community members threw something on to trucks" which caused them to burn.

Another truck was also damaged during the attack, while at least one employee was injured after being pelted with stones during the incident.

Municipal spokesperson Mandela Nsele said the municipality was still assessing the cost of the damage.

"The City is aware of a protest that broke out in the vicinity of Springfield, where two Cleansing and Solid Waste trucks were torched.

"The matter was attended to by Metro Police and the South African Police Service. The affected employees were taken for medical treatment," Nsele said.

It is believed that the protesters were residents of Kennedy Road informal settlement, who went on a rampage allegedly to prevent the demolition of their shacks.

The protesters were dispersed by the police yesterday.

Yesterday the municipality

said it was still investigating what the protest was about.

Sbu Zikode, the leader of shack dwellers' movement Abahlali BaseMjondolo, said he had been informed that the municipality had attempted to demolish some shacks in the area.

"The city seems to have a plan to demolish shacks but does not have any plan to build houses for the poor. This is what happens when you have a lack of leadership in the government," he said.

Police said no arrests had been made and they were investigating a case of public violence.
- Mercury Reporter

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