

# KZN RIOTS JULY 2021

**EYEWITNESS REPORTS, STATISTICS, FOOTAGE,  
TIME LINE OF EVENTS, TOWN BY TOWN ANALYSIS,  
ESTIMATED LOSSES & SPECIAL FEEDBACK**



**DARUL IHSAN**  
HUMANITARIAN CENTRE  
GUIDANCE • UBUNTU • EMPOWERMENT



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Published By:



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# KWAZULU-NATAL RIOTS - JULY 2021

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# **INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

## **THE PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL SOUTH AFRICA**

KwaZulu-Natal is one of South Africa's most picturesque provinces with a vast coastline and one of the biggest mountain ranges in the world. It is the second largest province in South Africa in terms of population, but the third smallest in terms of land size. The capital of the province is Pietermaritzburg.

KwaZulu means 'Land of the Zulu', which is symbolic of the indigenous tribe of the province which is made up of nearly 90 percent of Black African people, mainly Zulus. The area was home to the Zulu monarch, which although did not hold direct political power, but holds considerable influence among the more traditional Zulu people in the province.

Based in the northern parts of the province, this grouping of the population remains a powerful section of society. The rest of the

province is made up of Indian/Asian (+/- 8%) and Whites (+/- 4%).

## MUSLIMS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Muslim community of South Africa has played an important role in the economy for well over a century. Like the early Indians, brought to the country during the 1860s by the British to work as labourers, they initially served that purpose. However, as time progressed, they ventured out and explored other opportunities.

Many of them started trading from their homes, sowing the seeds of what was to come in the years ahead. A huge percentage of these Muslims were blessed with abundant rizq and barakah by Allah Ta'ala, to such an extent that their small businesses blossomed into empires. Along the way, they ploughed back into the local indigenous communities, empowered them and employed them.

The business hubs of many towns were centred around these businesses and families, but the carnage in July changed the landscape. Several of these families and businesses witnessed their foundations being rocked and many have subsequently shut their doors – a lot of them for good. This was one of the most heart-breaking themes of what transpired in July 2021. It was a

devastating moment in our history as hundreds of Muslims bore the brunt of lawlessness and barbaric behaviour.

## THE UNREST IN JULY 2021

This report is intended to serve as an eyewitness report and a data collection of the the events that unfolded of the **unrest in the province of KwaZulu-Natal** in July 2021. It will go on record as the worst violence that South Africa had experienced since the end of Apartheid. It started in the middle of 2021, with former president Jacob Zuma refusing to appear at the Zondo Commission. He was charged for contempt of court and imprisoned. His imprisonment led to a series of events that eventually culminated into the worst carnage witnessed in South Africa in decades.

The trouble began in KwaZulu-Natal, with the N3 highway being barricaded, and episodes of looting breaking out in the province. There were attacks on national infrastructure. Violence and looting escalated over the following days, with some of it hitting Gauteng as well. Ultimately, this had a severe and devastating impact on the everyone in the province with all public facilities, transport, businesses and activities coming to a complete standstill. An account of the statistics and timeline of events I

provided in this report with a town by town eyewitness report including insights from people who were hard hit by the riots.







# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Timeline of events

A closer look at the timeline of events, it is clear that the KZN riots was a planned and calculated insurrection, an attempt to destabilise the country and bring the state to its knees.

- 7 July - **Wednesday**: Jacob Zuma goes to jail.
- 8 July - **Thursday**: There are sporadic incidents of trucks blocking the toll plazas on the N2 in KwaZulu-Natal. The #FreeZuma campaign begins on social media.
- 8 July - **Thursday and 9 July - Friday, Durban**: The beginning of what seem to be spontaneous protests in Kwa-Mashu and on Umgeni Road (a major highway that cuts through the heart of Durban's light industry, manufacturing, wholesale and retail hubs). Disruption of key roads that are likely to be used by freight transport and emergency services.
- 10 July - **Saturday**, 35 trucks are attacked, looted and burnt **on the N3 Toll Plaza** - the arterial highway between Johannesburg and Durban is shut down.

- 11 July - **Sunday**, skirmishes continue in isolated areas around Durban, mainly Phoenix and the industrial areas around Umgeni Road. Residents in those areas report the constant sound of gunshots, the smell of cordite and of tyres burning.
- 11 July - **Sunday, Johannesburg**: Isolated incidents of stone-throwing - roads in the CBD are blocked. There is unrest on the streets. Crowds loot shops in Durban and Johannesburg CBD, moving during the day into Hillbrow, Berea and Jeppe. The looting has almost become leisurely as the crowds ignore the police.
- 12 July - **Monday, KZN**: The protests have now turned into looting, starting on the streets of the Durban CBD around the beachfront. Roads are strewn with debris, and any store that faces the street has broken windows and has been completely looted. The looting has become a free-for-all. cars are lined up outside malls with people waiting to drive in to load goods into their cars once the windows were smashed. The streets are full of people wheeling trolleys full of looted goods. other groups are turning up in vehicles (apparently even hired bakkies) to remove large stolen goods. From eyewitness reports, it seems that there was an element of organisation around the looting of the larger goods. There are attempts to blow up ATMS and destroy cell towers.

- 13 July - **Tuesday, KZN:** The SANDF has not yet arrived in KZN, and the day is marked with more unrest in particular areas. At the Makro, in Springfield Park, thousands of people have arrived from Kwa-Mashu on foot and in vehicles to load up, the roads are clogged with cars waiting to go into Makro and Value Centre. Nandi Drive, which goes through a light industrial hub, is clogged with looters and cars. Every business in the road is attacked and stripped.

Durban's three main cold stores are vandalised, looted and set alight, along with their freight vehicles. These cold stores contain millions of rands worth of perishable food that had been destined for markets inland.

The suburb of Reservoir Hills, for some reason, has been hit really hard, with businesses, mosques and private homes coming under attack. It is possible that the intent was to create a race war between blacks and Indians.

The unrest has now spread to Pietermaritzburg and smaller towns in KZN, starting with malls and spreading into the CBD. Several smaller towns are completely trashed.

- 14 July - **Wednesday:** By now, civil society in KZN and Gauteng has realised that the police and army cannot help

them, and they have mobilised, forming barricades on street corners and community watch patrols. Citizens form shields around remaining shops and businesses to prevent looting. There are still sporadic attacks on isolated businesses and shops. Some mosques and schools are burnt. Water treatment plants in Pietermaritzburg are set on fire. A community radio station in Johannesburg is attacked, looted and destroyed. Attempts are made to attack installations in the harbour and electrical substations.

- 15 July - **Thursday**: The army is deployed now in both KZN and Gauteng, and the unrest dies down. The government announces arrests. More than 200 people are dead, mainly from being trampled in looting stampedes, and the initial estimates of the direct damage is R15 billion. The long-term cost to our economy is incalculable.





## KEY TAKE AWAY POINTS FROM THE UNREST

- On 9 July 2021, South Africa exploded into civil unrest rarely seen before in its history. The province of KwaZulu-Natal was the epicentre of the uprising, sparked by the imprisonment of former President Jacob Zuma for contempt of court. The former President started serving a 15-month prison sentence for contempt of court on July 8. Supporters set up roadblocks and burned about 20 trucks on major highways in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal. Dozens of trucks were torched at Mooi River, a bottleneck on the most direct routes between Johannesburg and Durban.
- The unrest escalated into large-scale looting and attacks on shops, mall, business centres and infrastructure across KZN as well as some parts of Gauteng and Mpumalanga shopping malls and centres were ransacked by mobs that took food, electronics, clothes and liquor. Attacks on retail centres also spread inland to Gauteng province, to Johannesburg, the



country's largest city, and to Pretoria. It was the worst violence that South Africa's new generation had ever witnessed. Violence was largely confined to the KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng provinces, which together account for nearly 50% of South Africa's GDP.

- A total of 161 malls and shopping centres, 11 massive warehouses, eight factories, and 161 liquor stores and distributors were damaged, according to the government. An estimated 10 billion rand (\$680 million) in goods were stolen, trucks were destroyed, and more property was damaged, the government reports. Economist Intelligence Unit)
- At least 215 people were killed in the unrest, and more than 3000 were arrested on charges including theft and vandalism, according to police and government officials, many of the deaths were caused when people were crushed during the chaotic ransacking of shops.
- The uncontrollable nature of the riots brought the province to a standstill for nearly a week, before order was finally restored. Muslim businesses in particular were hard-hit, and many businesses and families suffered enormous losses. In some cases, arsonists made sure entire businesses were burnt,

guttled and ruined. The real impact of the after-effects will be felt for a long time to come as the carnage caused loss of employment, and has slowed down economic growth considerably.

- Approximately a thousand Muslim businesses suffered on account of the unrest at an estimated loss of more than R1.5 billion. These businesses were from various towns across the province. Moreover, three masajid were also damaged and three Muslims that were out defending their property and that of their neighbours were made Shaheed (martyred).
- It was clear that this was a coordinated and well planned insurgence and insurrection to destabilise the country and pave way for people who wanted to overthrow the state.
- Zuma's imprisonment prompted protests on social media, including attacks on highways and retail centres. Slogans undermining members of the present government were going viral on social media. Six people have been arrested for inciting violence and causing unrest.
- “The unrest was orchestrated, instigated and planned ... It almost brought our country to its knees,” said acting Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni.

- On Monday, 12 July 2021, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) was deployed in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, and succeeded in establishing an uneasy calm over the country. Gradually highways reopened and the violence dissipated.
- Volunteer groups helped to clean up the thrash and mayhem caused in the aftermath. The military presence was sustained for a while until things returned to normality.
- Due to the state's failure to quell the unrest, private security companies, taxi drivers, armed civilians, and community policing groups had taken on law enforcement duties by protecting businesses and communities from rioting and looting.
- Citizens, residents and business owners guarded businesses, residential areas, business and communications infrastructure with the support of business owners and corporations.
- By 14 July 2021, damage to the transportation infrastructure had resulted in food shortages, resulting in queues outside grocery stores and preventing harvesting and distribution of fresh produce.

- The SAPREF oil refinery, the largest oil refinery in Sub Saharan Africa that supplies approximately one third of South Africa's fuel needs suspended its operations and supply due to a declaration of force majeure.
- As of 16 July, it has been estimated that approximately 50% of patients with chronic illness in KwaZulu-Natal lack an adequate supply of necessary Pharmaceutical retailers reported supply disruptions due to looting. Clinical medicine to hospitals was also disrupted medicine. Healthcare facilities were placed under severe pressure due to many members of staff being unable to get to their posts. ambulances and other medical staff feared being attacked and were unwilling to go into dangerous areas, and in some cases they were not able to get to emergencies banks had to shut down their ATMs, branches, and other facilities in response to the unrest.
- KwaZulu-Natal premier Sihle Zikalala declared a state of disaster for the province on 29 July 2021, citing violence and looting that caused extensive damage across the province. Zikalala asserted the decision was made by the provincial executive council on 28 July.
- A delegation Ulama of Darul Ihsan Centre travelled to

various towns affected by the riots to meet the community and business people and offer moral support, duas and consolation.

- Darul Ihsan decided to commission its media team to travel to disaster hit towns to ascertain details of what happened to the Muslim business-owners and how they were affected. This document is a report back from that investigation and breaks down what transpired during that dark week in July.







## STATISTICS

### **Overall Key Statistics:**

Estimated loss to Provincial Economy: **R20-billion**

Number of formal Businesses affected: **90 000**

Number of informal businesses affected: **50 000**

Number of Muslim Businesses affected: **1000**

Total jobs affected: **150 000**

Total households affected: **1.5 million**

### **Muslim community key numbers:**

Estimated cost to Muslim Businesses: **R1.5-billion**

Number of Muslim Businesses Affected: **1000**

Number of Staff Affected in those Businesses: **5000**

Number of Towns Affected: **40**

Masajid vandalised/burnt/damaged: **3**

Muslim Lives Lost: **3**



# FULL REPORT OF TOWNS AND AFFECTED REGIONS

## **Major affected areas:**

Phoenix, Verulam, Tongaat, Stanger, Empangeni, Eshowe, Mandeni, Isipingo, Umkomaas, Port Shepstone, Harding, Ixopo, High Flats, Umzinto, Richmond, Pietermaritzburg, Greytown, Howick, Chatsworth, Clairwood, Mobeni, Umlazi, Demat, Marianhill, Pinetown, Mayville, Springfield, Durban.





# NORTH COAST

## EMPANGENI

**Start date:** Monday, 12 July

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim Business Affected:** +/-75

**Cost of damage:** +/- 100 million

**Summary:** Looting began on Monday (12 July) early morning with crowd moving from inland towards coast. During the height of the criminality, roughly 10,000 looters had descended on the town. Five major malls in the town, one completely burnt and two cleaned out completely. Most of the Muslim businesses in those malls. Some shop staff were involved in the looting. After they looted, they came back to burn the businesses and even told the owners they were going to burn, unless they were provided with severance pay. They said they know they will not be getting their jobs back, so they would want severance pay in order not to burn. After all was done, looters were coming back to exchange their goods three weeks after the looting. Masjid was along the route, so it was inaccessible. Roughly 130 Muslim families live in

Empangeni. Roughly half the businesses attacked reopened in the next week, but many did not open again.

**Mobilisation:** Community was too small to really mobilise. Once they did mobilise on Tuesday (13 July), the numbers in the town were too big. Looting would occur at one place and when small group of CPF would move in, the looters would attack the vacated business the locals were guarding. Once the looters moved out after the first 48 hours, more control was gained with other race groups also joining the Muslim community to form one stronger group. Mixed-race mobilisation strengthened the community.

**Pictures / Footage collated:** 39 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



## ESHOWE

**Start date:** Sunday, 11 July

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim Business Affected:** +/-10

**Cost of damage:** +/-R10 million

**Summary:** Looting began on Sunday (11 July) night. Some Muslim families moved in together as the menfolk went out on patrol. Community was not prepared at all after initially dismissing the threats as false alarms and strike threats. Tuesday (13 July) and Wednesday (14 July) nights were the toughest and scariest as the looters were coming in waves, one group with empty vans followed by the next, entering loading and leaving. There was a genuine fear from locals that they may not make it out alive, but leaving town was also too risky. Roughly 80 Muslim families live in Eshowe. Looted items that were recovered brought back to a central point and hampers made out of them for distribution to community. Businesses began to reopen by Friday (16 July).

**Mobilisation:** Community mobilised on Monday (12 July), mixed race group including Indian/Black/White, and they started patrolling town from Monday night. Main entrances



blocked, but perpetrators used all other smaller routes for access. Eventually priority of locals was more to defend the residential areas of town.

**Pictures / Footage collated: 30 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)**



## HIGH FLATS

**Start date:** Monday, 12 July

**Type of damage:** Looting

**Muslim Business Affected:** +/-15

**Cost of damage:** +/-R70 million

**Summary:** Isolated town between Umzinto and Ixopo. Most building owned by Ahmed Mansoor, including the main hardware, retail and wholesale called Triangle. Employs more than 150 staff. Business is roughly 50 years old and took two months to resume trading again. The business's own staff also partook in looting, with taxi owners binging the looters to the town. Owner could only return to town on Thursday (15 July). Few foreign Muslims live in town, but no locals meaning mobilisation was impossible.

**Mobilisation:** No mobilisation

**Pictures / Footage collated:** 8 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



## VERULAM

**Start date:** 12 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim Business Affected:** +/-25

**Cost of damage:** +/-R5 million

**Summary:** Groups of people began to arrive in the early hours of Monday (12 July) morning from a small township across the river and started looting the mainstream businesses first. They tried to set alight a Muslim business next to the Masjid after failing to loot it, but the Fire Department responded and put out the fire. Roughly 100 shops in total looted, Muslim businesses were in the region of 25 mainly small businesses. Moulana Abed Khan made an interesting point. Since the looting, he noticed that the locals have showed him more respect when he walks his usual route daily. He felt it was possibly because of the guilt they were experiencing.

**Mobilisation:** Community mobilised on Monday (12 July) afternoon after police went missing during the main morning period. It started with the Muslim male youth. They met and decided to block of the various areas. There was no violence at all, except for shots fired in the air. The protection of the town lasted

for around four days, before businesses reopened by the end of the week.

**Deaths:** In the Mount Vernon area, there were three people who were killed when a looter that had goods in his vehicle was stopped at a checkpoint. In the panic, he drove through and ran over some of the patrols. Two Muslim cousins – Hafez Abdul Wahid and Abul Rauf Sayed – were made shaheed along with a foreign Malawian non-Muslim that was also assisting.

**Pictures / Footage collated: 13 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)**



## PHOENIX

**Start date:** 12 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim Business Affected:** +/-5

**Cost of damage:** +/-R50 million

**Summary:** Phoenix was prominently in the news due to the aggressive reaction by the mainly Indian non-Muslim groups, many of whom used live ammunition to protect their areas. This was the main storyline from the area, with not too many businesses affected. Amongst those Muslim businesses severely hit were two, one a hardware store and another a major supermarket chain, Checksave. There were a few other smaller foreign-owned Muslim businesses as well. Checksave in Westham was one of 19 of their stores struck, while Competitive Hardware in Bester was completely ransacked, and parts of the property also torched. The locals said the reason they burnt the place was because the land belonged to them and the buildings to Indians, so they wanted to burn it. Some of their own staff were also looting despite the owners doing so much for them. Local poor Indians were also part of the looting. Farhaad Osman, who suffered one of the biggest losses amongst all businesses in the province, was exceptionally patient in all of this. He had strong

yaqeen about his rizq – what comes from Allah Ta'ala is his and he will provide again. The businesses were shut down for roughly a week, but Competitive took around a fortnight to get up and running again.

**Mobilisation:** Community mobilised from Sunday (11 July), mixed race groups including Indian Muslim/Non-Muslim/Black, but few stores that were badly struck were in areas that were openly exposed. Therefore these were difficult to save. A lack of manpower was the main reason that, for example Competitive Hardware, could not be protected. Tradeport at Phoenix Industrial built barricades on the main access road to the area around them, which kept people out. They were joined by small groups of police that were there to ensure the situation did not get out of hand.

**Pictures / Footage collated:** 250 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



# TONGAAT

**Start date:** 12 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim Business Affected:** +/-25

**Cost of damage:** +/-R40 million

**Summary:** Problems began on Monday (12 July) in the early hours of the morning where groups of people were marching into the town from the northern side, causing destruction to everything in their path. Many small Muslim businesses owned by foreigners were cleaned out. Trend noticed was that the youth were at the forefront of the looting. Taxis also involved by bringing in people and were part of the problem. The looting eventually completely stopped by Thursday (15 July).

**Mobilisation:** The town worked through a contact and got in touch with the Ministry of Defence, who sent a small team to them. The local brothers fetched them at the airport and the CPF had a meeting with them. This was on Monday and from there the locals, mixed race, took over, policing the area as best they could. Muslims were at the forefront, but it was a community effort. SAPS only had four vehicles and were hardly of any help.

**Pictures / Footage collated:** 13 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

# STANGER

**Start date:** 11 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting

**Muslim Business Affected:** +/-20

**Cost of damage:** +/-R8 million

**Summary:** The town is unique because it is surrounded by townships. It also a very vulnerable because there are many access routes into the town via bushes and dirt roads, which is how people entered. By 08h00 on Monday (12 July) perpetrators were already in the town and started to loot. They were pushed back and went to the outskirts where they were looting liquor stores and main chain stores. By Monday evening large mobs in the thousands were coming back and the locals couldn't do much to stop them. Monday and Tuesday were the most intense days, before subsiding on Tuesday. By Wednesday (14 July) there was more calm, but barricades remained. Businesses eventually opened by Saturday. Interesting incidents of yaqeen where some of the brothers recited a few portions of Qur'an and that helped to drive back the crowds or prevented locks from being broken.

**Mobilisation:** Stanger prepared on Sunday (11 July) evening by sending 10 vehicles to patrol edge of the town. What supposed to



be just a patrolling exercise was a lot more and those in the vehicles had to also fire shots in the air to push back people coming towards the town. Looters returned Monday and locals were outnumbered. They placed focus on protecting CBD and also the residential areas, barricading on their own and maintaining protection of the town.

**Pictures / Footage collated: 41 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)**





# KWAZULU-NATAL SOUTH COAST

## ISIPINGO

**Start date:** Sunday 11 July

**Type of Damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-80 - several Muslim-owned buildings burnt

**Cost of damage:** +/-R500 million

**Summary:** Isipingo was like a warzone from the time it started on Sunday (11 July). Law enforcement did not have the manpower to contain the crowds. Locals were of the view that the poverty around Isipingo played a big role in the events that unfolded. They felt that people with nothing see the Muslim businesses everyday making money and become envious. They were at the mercy of the masterminds behind all of this. Of the 180 businesses that are part of the Isipingo Business Forum, only 25 were spared. Damaging was the heart-breaking part as the mobs spared nothing. Businessmen even reached a point where they

considered opening doors so looters can take what they want without damaging. Things only subsided on Thursday (15 July). Burning was done by separate groups during the middle of the night when CPF was stretched. One business, Jadwats Centre - Pik and Win - was spared because of the exorbitant amount paid by owners to security companies. Building is regarded as heart at Isipingo, seen as the business of hope because of their excellent pricing. Most businesses resumed trading within 10-15 days, roughly before end of July.

**Mobilisation:** Businessman were on the ground from day one, which was Monday (July 12). The crowds were too big to stop and locals didn't want lives to be loss. Local business CPF was on watch right through, working in shifts. Police and army began to help from Thursday (July 15).

**Pictures / Footage collated:** 57 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



## UMKOMAAS

**Start date:** Tuesday, 13 July

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-10

**Cost of damage:** +/-R10 million

**Summary:** One of the last few towns to be attacked, with trouble only starting on Tuesday (13 July). Businesses didn't expect attack as townships are all further than five kilometres away. That meant that walking access to town was not so easy and the looters had to arrange transport to get there. Only the lower end of town was attacked and ransacked with a few shops burnt.

**Mobilisation:** The community mobilised on Monday (12 July). The pool included a real mixed race group including Indian/Black/White, and they started patrolling town from Monday night. The main entrances were all blocked, but perpetrators used all other smaller routes for access. Eventually it was more about defending the residential areas of town rather than focussing too much on the town itself.

**Pictures / Footage collated:** 21 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

## UMZINTO

**Start date:** 11 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-15

**Cost of damage:** +/-R50 million

**Summary:** First signs of trouble were on Sunday (11 July) night when a small group tried to access the Boxer store on end of the town, but police moved in quickly and dispersed them. The next morning, though, looting had already begun of the big furniture stores. The first Muslim store to be hit was a supermarket, before they began targeting other stores. This continued through Monday and into Tuesday. Things only subsided on Tuesday afternoon when outside police force known as POP (Public Order Police) arrived and cleared out the town. This gave the local community the chance to move in and take back control. Many foreign stores in the town were also hit. An estimated 1500 jobs were lost. Despite the damage, bridges were built with local indunas and chieftains. Some sort of parity returned to the town by the weekend, with business as normal resuming for many on Monday, 19 July.

**Mobilisation:** After witnessing the trouble on morning of 12

July, a small group came together and went into town to see what was happening. They witnessed many stores affected already and when intervention was made, the looters would leave. But as soon as this group of the community would move to another store, the looters would return. No police intervention, although police were out on the streets driving. Muslim community of about 40 members decided on Monday night that they would block off the main entrance to town and once this was done, they experienced a lot of racial abuse. Looters also threw rocks at them, injuring a few brothers. Group grew as days progressed and all access areas blocked until the problems subsided.

**Pictures / Footage collated: 27 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)**



## DEMAT, CHATSWORTH - DURBAN

**Start date:** 11 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-10

**Cost of damage:** +/-R20 million

**Summary:** Demat is a small business area near Savanah Park in Chatsworth. Problems in the area began around midday on Sunday (11 July). Several guards from the business centre involved in exchange of fire with the mobs. That was the only resistance that took place, with guards then standing down as they were overwhelmed by the huge numbers that entered and completely ravaged the entire facility. This included a hardware store, spares store, furniture store, supermarket and pipe factory. The masjid was also devastated and the borehole was damaged. Qurbani sheep were also victims of the unrest with an estimated 1750 stolen from one of the smallholdings where they are sold from during this period. Overall, the area was completely shut down right up until the Wednesday (14 July). It took nearly two months for the businesses on site to restart. Masjid Damage: Most concerning was that they completely stripped the masjid in Demat. From the windows to the doors to the piping to the toilets, nothing was spared. Quraans and kitaabs were all thrown

on the floor. A local African sister did collect everything in the aftermath and left it at a Muslim home not too far away. Jumu'ah was held at the masjid on the Friday (16 July) without any water or electricity.

**Mobilisation:** No mobilisation possible.

**Pictures / Footage collated:** 44 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)





## CHATSWORTH - DURBAN

**Start date:** 12 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-5

**Cost of damage:** +/-R20 million

**Summary:** The main areas affected by looting in Chatsworth were in the Unit 2 area of Bayview. The businesses affected were close to the homes, with the residents of the local squatter camp playing a key part in what transpired. Local Indian Muslims were also caught up as the week progressed. Problems began on Monday (12 July) morning when looters attacked the local petrol station and a few stores in the neighbouring complex. After this was done, the same Muslim-owned garage was torched later that evening. On Tuesday, the attacks continued with people coming back to clear out what was left behind and also attempt to get into other stores. Unfortunately, some of the local Indian Muslims were also requesting the looters bring for them certain items they required – the attitude of not being left out also overtook some people. The attacks subsided by Wednesday (14 July), with businesses taking from between two weeks to two months to restart.

**Mobilisation:** Mobilisation was more from the residential areas, which began from Monday (12 July) night. This was done to protect the homes and property of the communities. Businesses had no protection or mobilisation, except those businesses that were run by the drug-lords. **Deaths:** In the Unit 11 area, there was also the unique incident of a young aalim, Moulana Hamza Mohammed Mia, who was made shaheed. Moulana, aged 25, left home on Monday (12 July) evening to join a patrol group that was formed to help safeguard the residential district. Within two minutes of leaving his home around 22h30 with his father and younger brother, Moulana Talha Mohammed Mia, he was struck by a bullet in between his eyebrows. The bullet came from an unknown source and also went right through his head, meaning even tracing of where it came from was difficult. He passed away on the scene. Investigations are continuing to find the perpetrators, but not much headway has been made thus far.

**Pictures / Footage collated:** None - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



## CLAIRWOOD

**Start date:** 12 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/- 25

**Cost of damage:** +/- R3 million

**Summary:** The trouble in Clairwood began on Monday (12 July) morning at roughly 05h00. No one did anything initially, so the crowds continued moving from shop to shop on the main street. Three separate mobs, totalling approximately 500 people, were helping themselves in different parts of the town, but they were pushed back by the local community after they came together. These mobs hung around, though, moving into stores each time the local CPFs shifted focus to a different store and area. The pattern continued through Monday night and to Tuesday (13 July). Business owners that were not present had no one to defend their stores. An example of this was the corporate meat business Etlin. The looters spent two to three days helping themselves to whatever they wished to at their massive warehouse in the area, where no one was on hand to defend this business. By Thursday (15 July), things calmed down with businesses then reopening on two weeks later (26 July).

**Mobilisation:** Muslim community was first to react with 10-12 vehicles put together, all armed, and along with security companies they moved in to disperse the crowds. Local community numbers grew as well when they saw how much progress was made by the 10-12 vehicles. Hardly any police presence. SAPS helped initially, but Metro Police did nothing to help. Once things simmered down, the entrances to Clairwood were blocked off and manned by the local CPF until order was restored towards the end of the month.

**Pictures / Footage collated: 23 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)**



## PORT SHEPSTONE

**Start date:** 12 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** 1

**Cost of damage:** +/-R10 million

**Summary:** The town of Port Shepstone reacted early and put together one of the strongest mobilisation plans, meaning there was little that the trouble-makers could do. There was only one business, situated roughly 500 metres outside the main town on the road towards Harding, that was completely devastated. The property is located on the outskirts of the township area and was a stone's throw away from where the looters had gathered in large numbers. They began attacking the building in the early hours of Monday (12 July), dispersed momentarily when the owner arrived with SAPS and reinforced security with armed guards, but returned in bigger numbers later that evening. They completely raided the hardware store, chicken store and supermarket and then set most of the buildings alight. The business opened partially only after one month. The irony of the attack was that the owner, marhoom Imraan Mahomed Hansbhai who passed away in January, was a huge advocate for community work and helping the poor. He was part of the Gift of the Givers and assisted those

around the store almost daily with basic food and water via the borehole on site, which they damaged and stole the pump as well.

**Mobilisation:** It was difficult for the community to protect the property as it is located a bit further out of town close to the township. Despite efforts by the owner to reinforce security, these extra forces were overwhelmed and eventually fled the scene.

**Pictures / Footage collated:** 74 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)





# KWAZULU NATAL INLAND

## IXOPO

**Start date:** Monday, 12 July

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-21 - 2 or 3 Muslim-owned buildings burnt

**Cost of damage:** Not available or stated. Own estimate is +/-R20 million

**Summary:** Trouble began on Monday (12 July) and was relentless for the first day. Tuesday (13 July) morning after Fajr, mashwara was held at masjid with few brothers and decision taken to open masjid despite lockdown. After this, a calm appeared to descend on the town, which has around 50 Muslim families. Masjid was used as a safehouse and focal point for all community activity, both Muslim and non-Muslim. Lots of praise was received for the work done by the non-Muslim community. Mayor and municipality effort helped to clean up town. White farmers even

went as far as to offer to create an interest-free fund to help businesses to restart. Mental strength/Ulama visits played a key part in restarting businesses.

**Mobilisation:** Local white farmers, black mayor, police, local mixed-race community and businessmen all played major role in the mobilisation process. The town was barricaded and cleaned up by Tuesday (13 July). Patrol groups were created and barricades were put up. These remained in place for two weeks. By Thursday (15 July), one of the main supermarket chains, Spar, was reopened to assist the community.

**Pictures / Footage collated:** 13 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)





## GREYTOWN

**Start date:** 12 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-5

**Cost of damage:** +/-R40 million

**Summary:** The crowd initially descended in small numbers, but as day one progressed on Monday (12 July) so too did the numbers increase. Mid-morning was the first strike and it took place on two Muslim businesses, one of them which was later set alight. In total +/- 15 businesses (Muslim and non-Muslim) were affected. Tuesday (13 July) was the most tense day due to the large numbers, but the CPF and police managed to repel the perpetrators. The entire ordeal lasted for three days, Wednesday (14 July) being the last one, before things started normalising from Thursday (15 July). From one of the Muslim businesses that was partially burnt, a Quran emerged intact from amongst the ashes.

**Mobilisation:** Community mobilised on Monday (12 July), starting with Indian Muslim and non-Muslims on the Monday. By Tuesday (13 July) SAPS made an appearance and joined the community. WhatsApp played a key role in helping to mobilise

the locals. The masjid was subsequently opened and made a difference for the town. People came out with sticks, bats or whatever they could find. Reception from the overall community was heart-warming - women also were involved by preparing meals for those that went out and the camaraderie was exceptional.

**Pictures / Footage collated: 45 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)**





# KWA-ZULU NATAL MIDLANDS

## PIETERMARITZBURG

**Start date:** 11 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-20

**Cost of damage:** Not available or stated. Own estimate is +/-R10 million

**Summary:** From Sunday night (11 July) there was a noticeable influx of out-of-town vehicles moving into the squatter camps. The first Muslim-owned building was also set alight in the lower end of town on the same night at around 23h00. Fire services were reluctant to respond due to the looming problems in the city. Initially due to small numbers, it was difficult to be everywhere at once, so CPF was moving from place to place, depending on where the numbers were. Big Muslim business were well-protected by their private security. In the main street, foreign business owners came out and successfully protected their properties. But small owned foreign Muslim businesses situated

uptown had little protection and were looted and even burnt. Non-Muslim businesses were spared from this. Uptown Asmall's distribution centre and Hyper Store were hit quite badly due to the numbers. Many foreign Muslims also caught up in the rush and were themselves looting. A lot of the items confiscated by CPF were given to old age homes in the downtown area. By Wednesday (14 July) things subsided and on Thursday (15 July) businesses unaffected reopened. Many businesses reported that their own staff were looting. Interesting point to note, Mohammed Asmall (owners of Asmall's) said that whatever was looted, he made intention he was giving it as sadaqah to those who stole. Asmall's was the worst-hit Muslim-owned business in the city.

**Mobilisation:** Lower-end of city comprises of many residences mixed amongst businesses, mainly occupied by older people that have been there for years. The local CPF was already in place, patrolling the lower-end of town area for the past four years. More support was needed, and after initially starting out with a few people, the CPF grew by Monday (12 July). This came after a meeting was held at the masjid and it was agreed that the CPF will barricade their streets by burning tyres. That helped keep out looters and deterred them from entering the area.

**Pictures / Footage collated:** 70 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

## HOWICK

**Start date:** 11 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-17

**Cost of damage:** +/-R10 million

**Summary:** There was just one intense day, which was Monday (12 July). Problems began in one corner of the town overnight on Sunday (11 July), with residents waking up to looters arriving in droves. The atmosphere was extremely intense and volatile at that point. People arrived from all directions into the main town from roughly 08h30, sweeping into shops and stealing. The Muslim community by this stage had already come out and most of them were standing guard in front of their businesses, some armed and some unarmed. There were many stand-offs that ensued throughout the day. During this period, a few brothers were also posted to the masjid where they engaged in a'amaal and through these actions, the town was spared from severe destruction. After one or two days, the town was opened up again.

**Mobilisation:** The business community rallied immediately on Monday (12 July) morning when they noticed what was going on. Messages were sent to the entire Muslim community – families

and friends – and the response was overwhelming.

**Pictures / Footage collated: 32 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)**



## RICHMOND

**Start date:** 12 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-20

**Cost of damage:** +/-R125 million

**Summary:** This was one of the worst-hit towns during the July unrest with only four shops spared. A Bengali-owned business was first to be affected on the Monday (12 July) morning at 02h00. The store was set alight and the owner lost everything including passports, but managed to escape. This was the start of the trouble and by 07h00 roughly 1000 looters were raiding the town and they continued the whole day with numbers only increasing. The town was shut for 10 days before some sort of normality began to return. In that period, only two shops were opened.

**Mobilisation:** On Monday (12 July) the efforts to stop the crowds were tough because the local groups were too small. It was more running from one place to another to disperse the crowds. A meeting with the deputy minister defence bore no fruit as no protection of the town arrived as had been promised. By Tuesday the community, mixed with white, black and Indian, came

together and decided to barricade the town themselves. Only four police officers were on duty throughout. The community then kept the town barricaded on their own for two days.

**Pictures/ Footage collated:23 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)**





## MANDENI

**Start date:** 11 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting

**Muslim business affected:** +/-10

**Cost of damage:** +/-R6 million

**Summary:** On Friday (9 July) truck drivers were threatened and their vehicles used to block down the entrance of Mandeni. These were the early warning signs for business owners. Many closed after Jumu'ah and managed to get out of town. On Saturday (10 July) they decided to risk it and go back to open. All was normal until midday, when they received warnings to close or be caught up in what was expected to be protest action. Business owners obliged at the time, with a lot of them then escorted out of the area by locals who issued the initial warning. There was sadly no returning for most of those business people thereafter until Thursday (15 July) when they returned to destruction in the town. Because of no on-the-ground protection, shops were stripped completely from air-conditioning to light-fittings. Many businesses will not be returning.

**Mobilisation:** No mobilisation

**Pictures / Footage collated:** 18 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

## IZINGOLWENI

**Start date:** 11 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-10

**Cost of damage:** +/-R75 million

**Summary:** Izingolweni, a small one-street town between Port Shepstone and Harding, was on high alert from the time they heard murmurs of the unrest. This was because only a few months back, March 2021 to be precise, many businesses were looted. Their problems began on Sunday night (11 July) just before midnight when looters first struck. Only one casper on the ground around 20 police, but only a handful were POP (Public Order Police). The raids continued through the week, before it subsided eventually by Friday (16 July). During March, the protest action was service-delivery related.

**Mobilisation:** No mobilisation

**Pictures / Footage collated:** 7 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



## HARDING

**Start date:** 12 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-45

**Cost of damage:** +/-R200 million

**Summary:** Problems began mid-morning on Monday (12 July) when the first group of around 30 people struck a bottle store. There was a police presence, but they stood back. From there, they moved to the main mall where they attacked Checkers liquor store and then moved into other stores, with more people arriving all the time. The local Muslims on the ground managed to engage with the mob and told them that they were obviously there to protect their own businesses and they received assurances that the looters were only after the major white-owned franchise stores. But 15 minutes later they moved into some of the major Muslim stores. In total, there were more than 110 businesses in Harding that were affected, making it one of the worst struck towns.

**Mobilisation:** The locals began to mobilise on Tuesday (13 July), day two, after they witnessed that around 75 per cent of the town was already attacked by the looters. The white farming community, the taxi association and the local CPF all worked

together to block off the 10 access routes. They then opened three with checkpoints to monitor movement in and out of the town. Thereafter 24-hour patrolling began from Tuesday and that was maintained until the army moved in the following week until 21 July, roughly 10 days.

**Pictures / Footage collated: 53 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)**





# GREATER DURBAN

## NEWLANDS WEST - DURBAN

**Start date:** 09 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/- 5

**Cost of damage:** +/- R3 million

**Summary:** Trouble in the Newlands area began on Friday (09 July) when the usual service delivery protests were held, although this time there appeared to be even more tension and anger amongst the people due to a delay in grant payments. Saturday (10 July) was similar and due to the anger that was in the air, most businesses closed up early. The same tension continued into Sunday (11 July), before late afternoon when they began to break into the businesses and loot. Due to the road blockages by the community, things simmered down by Tuesday (13 July) and by Thursday (15 July) things were back to normal. Most businesses resumed business the following Monday (19 July).

**Mobilisation:** No real mobilisation at the businesses, but the

Muslim community decided to barricade the main roads with sand to make it difficult for the vehicles that were carrying looted goods to escape. Similarly, the coloured community also armed with weapons barricaded a few kilometres up the road. This community was actually then pulling the vehicles that carried looted goods off the road and taking back the looted items. That was a major deterrent for the looters and forced them to stop major transportation out of the area. SAPS and Metro Police were witness by many stealing goods.

**Pictures / Footage collated: 10 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)**



## PINETOWN

**Start date:** 12 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/- 100

**Cost of damage:** +/- R400 million

**Summary:** Small groups began to break into businesses in the central Pinetown area on Monday (12 July). Multiple mobs of roughly 200 people were working in different areas, moving from one store to the next. Each time the police or owners arrived, these criminals would push back but then when the police and owners leave, they would move back in again. Businessman Ashraf Koya, owner of three Bawa Furniture stores, suffered severe losses but said he never felt any stress and made peace with what happened due to his yaqeen in Allah Ta'ala. He was one of the only local businessman that attempted to salvage his businesses. The attacks continued through until Wednesday (14 July) before subsiding. The area took at least 10 days to reopen again.

**Mobilisation:** Rallying the community to protect their property was extremely difficult due to Pinetown being a broad business area. Most shop owners were too scared to come out, with only a handful attempting to save their stores. Amongst those were the

Pakistani business owners, who joined hands and stood 24-7 guarding their areas of interest and that proved key in saving their shops. SAPS were on hand, but they were too scared to do too much. The few times they did try to interject, they were pushed back or attacked by the crowds.

**Pictures / Footagecollated: 27\_ - [CLICKHERETOVIEW](#)**





## MARIANHILL - INTEC

**Start date:** 10 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/- 20

**Cost of damage:** +/- R150 million

**Summary:** This was the first business area in KwaZulu-Natal that looting began and one of the worst in terms of devastation. Business community received tip-offs from Friday (09 July) that there was trouble brewing. On Saturday (10 July) after most businesses closed up early afternoon, the problems started with initial groups beginning to break into the lower end of town. The group was also one of the biggest mobs witnessed, with approximately 2500 people marching on the town centre. The town continued to be overwhelmed by the same number of people for the next few days until eventually simmering down. At that point it was described as a ghost town, with the aftermath resembling a war zone. Nothing was spared, with almost every shop struck, including petrol stations. Many business owners have not returned as yet and many will not be returning at all. There were attempts to break into the masjid, but the muadhin spoke to them and convinced them otherwise. Amongst the damage was also the complete destruction of Darul Ihsan training centre in

Marianhill. There was also the heartbreaking story of Intake, a 130-year-old Muslim-owned farm store in the area, that was completely ravaged and cleaned out forcing the family to move away and begin a new life. Their farm store and home were completely cleaned out by the grandchildren of those locals that they grew up with, people who had supported them and who they had served for more than a century, with their pleas to spare them falling on deaf ears.

**Mobilisation:** Mobilisation was very difficult due to big numbers. Those who did stand their ground, eventually had to leave after their ammunition ran out. Police tried to assist, until the point that they too were overwhelmed by the huge numbers.

**Pictures / Footage collated:** 32 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



## MAYVILLE

**Start date:** 12 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-10

**Cost of damage:** +/-R100 million

**Summary:** Mayville was one of the first places where visuals emerged from via social media of the masjid being set alight. The attacks on the actual businesses began in the early hours of Monday (12 July) when the criminals descended on the main hardware store on the same site of the masjid in a huge mob, broke into the shop, completely cleaned it out and then set it alight. The fire department refused to respond, saying they were too busy leaving those living on site and their families to fight the blaze on their own, which they managed to successfully do. Apart from that, the looters also raided a skill development centre of Crescent of Hope, taking all their sewing machines that they used to train the community and burnt all neighbouring rooms where community upliftment programs took place. Most owners only managed to return to site by Friday (16 July). Restarting of businesses took months, with some opting not to reopen at all. Masjid Damage: This was set alight when a flame from the main building shot up and went through the dome, jumping

across into the masjid adhaan room. This was how the fire started in the masjid. Fortunately, nothing was looted, but the smoke and burning damage left a trail of destruction. Repairs are estimated to cost in the region of R1.5 million.

**Mobilisation:** No mobilisation possible due to the location of businesses, which are in the middle of a major squatter camp.

**Pictures / Footage collated: 5 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)**



## DURBAN CENTRAL

**Start date:** 11 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting

**Muslim business affected:** +/-10

**Cost of damage:** +/-R50 million

**Summary:** In the early hours on Monday (12 July) the first intrusions took place in the Durban CBD, mainly in the West and Smith Street areas. Police were called in initially, but then as the day progressed, they stopped responding to calls leaving the businesses to fend for themselves. It was a very targeted approach by the looters as they specifically aimed for brands. Ring leaders were actually calling people to offer them goods, saying they were in town and should customers want anything, they could loot it for them. The looters continued in this vane until Wednesday (14 July). It took roughly two weeks for the affected businesses to restart again.

**Mobilisation:** Mobilisation in the CBD was mainly by the foreign business owners and a handful of locals. The foreigners would more or less create a barrier in front of their stores – armed with any kind of item or weapon – and stand their ground. They helped other businessmen where they could, but when needed by

their own, they would react immediately leaving the other shops to the mercy of the looters. Some of the locals then got together and barricaded the roads around their stores, but were stopped by the police. This forced owners to essentially protect their own businesses.

**Pictures / Footage collated: 7 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)**



## DURBAN – RIVERHORSE VALLEY

**Start date:** 9 July 2021

**Type of damage:** Looting and burning

**Muslim business affected:** +/-1

**Cost of damage:** Not available or stated. Own estimate is +/-R10 million

**Summary:** This area, close to the township of KwaMashu, became synonymous for the visuals that were beamed across the country showing the Game (Massmart Warehouse) being completely cleaned out by the looters. Unfortunately, a Muslim-owned business, Forever Fashion, situated across the road from the Game building found itself at the mercy of the looters when the site was struck on Friday (9 July) night. Everything was stolen, including vehicles, and a few offices set alight. The fires were put out, but not after millions of rand worth of damage was caused. The business only returned to normal operations at the end of September.

**Mobilisation:** No mobilisation was possible as the company was located in a business park.

**Pictures / Footage collated:** None



# MASJIDS

## VADALISED & DAMAGED

During the riots certain Masajid were also targeted and not spared in the violence. Particularly, 3 masjids in KZN were affected. A brief account of these Masjids is presented here.

### **Mayville Masjid – Durban**

The masjid was set alight when a flame from the main building shot up and went through the dome, and into the masjid Azan room. This was how the fire started in the masjid. Fortunately, nothing was looted, but the smoke and burning damage left a trail of destruction. Repairs are estimated to cost in the region of R1.5 million.

**Masjid – Demat – Durban:** During the riots, the masjid was completely stripped of all its ablution infrastructure. Windows, doors, taps, mixers, basins, piping to the toilet cisterns, etc. were all stolen. Nothing was spared. Copies of the Noble Quran and other sacred books were strewn all over the floor. A local sister collected the debris in the aftermath and left it at a Muslim home not too



far away. Jumu'ah was held at the masjid on the Friday (16 July) without any water or electricity.

## **Impendle Masjid**

The masjid in this area was attacked and looted. Details of how the masjid was vandalised are not clear and obtaining a detail account was difficult. Locals did express their anguish at the manner in which the masjid was desecrated. The cost of the damage runs into hundreds of thousands of rands.





# TRAGIC DEATH OF MUSLIM YOUTHS

## **Verulam**

In the Mount Vernon area, north of Durban, three people who were killed when a looter who has stolen goods in his vehicle was stopped at a civilian checkpoint. In a state of panic and to escape, he drove through checkpoint which was manned by innocent civilians and youth. He ran over some of the patrols. Two Muslim youths, cousins – Hafez Abdul Wahid and Abul Rauf Sayed – were made killed in the incident and attained shahadat (martyrdom). A non-Muslim Malawian national was also killed whilst assisting them.

## **Chatsworth**

In the Unit 11 area of Chatsworth, a tragic death of a young Alim occurred. Moulana Hamza Mohammed Mia attained martyrdom whilst patrolling his residential area. Moulana, aged 25, left home on Monday (12 July) evening to join a patrol group that was formed to help safeguard the residential district. Within

two minutes of leaving his home around 22h30 with his father and younger brother, Moulana Talha Mohammed Mia, he was struck by a bullet in his forehead. The bullet came from an unknown source and pierced his head, making traceability of where it came from difficult. He passed away on the scene. Investigations are continuing to find the perpetrators, but not much headway has been made thus far.





## **DARUL IHSAN SKILLS CENTRE VANDALISED IN MARIANHILL**

KWAZULU-NATAL: Darul Ihsan's Skills Training Centre in Marianhill, Durban, was looted and destroyed in the recent unrest in KwaZulu-Natal.

One of the organisation's main community development programmes, the Fashion & Design Course, was housed at the central Mamdekazi Mall in the heart of Marianhill town.

The course had its roots here dating back to 2017 with roughly 150 local ladies successfully graduating and finding jobs through the initiative.

However, the civil unrest last month led to almost the entire Marianhill town centre being looted and burnt, leaving the organisation no equipment, materials and venue to continue.

“Our town was the first to be hit during the looting and they raided it badly,” Darul Ihsan's Sheikh Ishaq said.

“First the looters came and they raided all the businesses in the

area. Fortunately we were able to at salvage some items in between the unrest period.

Later that evening they came back and burnt the building down.”

The news will be a blow to the community, many of whom have benefitted from the course to uplift themselves and their families by securing jobs at clothing and textile factories nearby.

As for Marianhill itself, at the moment it resembles a ghost town, according to Sheikh Ishaq, with only one supermarket selling limited products.

“Even all the basics are not yet available and people are having to travel to Pinetown for all their shopping,” the Sheikh added.

Darul Ihsan continues to raise money for those affected by the unrest. To contribute, visit [www.darulihsan.com/donate](http://www.darulihsan.com/donate)

**Source:** <https://darulihsan.com/index.php/news/item/9300-kzn-unrest-forced-darul-ihsan-to-close-marianhill-training-centre>) - [Darul Ihsan Media Desk](#)



# KZN RIOTS

## AFTERMATH & WAY FORWARD

*Jumuah message issued by Darul Ihsan Centre after the riots*

The KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa was hit with widespread rioting and mayhem which started with sporadic incidents on July 8, 2021 that swiftly escalated to widespread looting, plundering and arson of an unprecedented nature.

Malls, shopping centres, warehouses, factories, bank ATMs, infrastructure, vehicles and trucks were looted by mobs of rioters. The unrest became chaotic and violent. The situation was volatile and tense. The losses run into tens of billions. Apart from the financial losses, people have been psychologically affected and traumatised. None of the state security apparatus were able to do much, leaving the ordinary citizens to stand off against rioting mobs and protect their families and homes to the best of what they were able to do.

Immediately after things calmed down, there were huge shortages of basic food items such as bread and milk.

## **Allah Ta'ala is our Sole Provider and Protector**

A great lesson learnt from this crisis is that we should reinforce our full trust and reliance in Allah Ta'ala alone. "You Alone do we Worship and you alone do we ask for help". Reaffirm our belief and conviction in the greatness of Allah Ta'ala by speaking about the greatness of Allah Ta'ala. He is All Knowing, All Wise, there is none worthy of Worship but Allah, to Him belongs the Universe and to him belongs All Praise.

## **Hope and encouragement - a central theme of the Qur'an**

Throughout the Noble Qur'an, Allah Ta'ala reminds man of the temporary nature of this worldly life, its challenges and trials and gives man hope, inspiration and encouragement. The lives and times of the Messenger's (AS) bear testimony to the fact that people will undergo tests and trials and should remain resilient and patient.

**"...Do not lose hope in the mercy of Allah"** (Surah Zumar - V 53) - **"...do not despair of Allah's mercy..."** (Surah Yusuf - V 87)

## **Not all is lost**

Grief, fear, anger and distress are natural human emotions. To feel sad and aggrieved at loss of wealth is natural. We believe that the

material loss of believer will not go unrewarded by Allah Ta'ala. **"Verily Allah has purchased your lives and wealth in lieu of Jannah."** (Surah Taubah - V 111) The ultimate abode of bliss is the Hereafter and any loss suffered in this world is an investment for the Hereafter. Every loss of a Believer is accompanied with forgiveness, reward and spiritual progress. Feeling the pain of loss is a means of benefit.

The Dua of Nabi ﷺ for loss is: **"O Allah! Reward me on my difficulty and replace me better than what was lost."** A Believer has the conviction that better days and conditions will arise from the ashes.

### **Brotherhood and support**

In this time of severe financial loss and difficulty we should look to supporting and helping those affected. To help a person in distress is a great Sunnah. Nabi ﷺ established bonds of Ukhuwwah (partnerships) between the Sahabah ؓ to strengthen them in their business ventures and to help them get start up in life. Many Sahabah ؓ prospered thereafter having benefited from this support model. In this time of crisis, we should set aside our differences and work together for the greater good of the Ummah. Unity and common purpose will make us stronger and successful.



## **Reflect on our intention**

Purpose and intention is the basis of our deeds and our survival. We should review our intention and purpose of life and of our existence in this country. We should make a firm resolution to live here for the upliftment of Islam. Our mission should be to convey the beautiful teachings of Islam to all the inhabitants of this country and to help and guide them towards the peace demonstrated by Islam. By bettering our character, approach, attitude and communication we will attract people towards the goodness of Islam.

## **Patience and perseverance**

In times of hardship, we are called upon to be patient and hopeful. Through our most difficult days we should remain steadfast and persevere on our obligations to Allah Ta'ala, increase our remembrance of Allah Ta'ala, the Owner of Universe.

The situation should invoke within us a sense of introspection and we should relook at our strategy, approach and response to these challenges.

May Allah Ta'ala restore the losses, grant relief and guide us towards faith and peace.



## **DARUL IHSAN ULAMA VISIT DISASTER HIT TOWNS**

In the aftermath of the riots there was a lot of despair, shock and uncertainty. The Ulama of Darul Ihsan Centre, undertook to travel to the affected areas to meet with the affected business communities and offer our support and assistance.

The delegations travelled to many towns in the KZN province, including Richmond, Ixopo, Umzinto, Port Shepstone, High Flats, Izingloweni, Isipingo Rail, Chatsworth, Mobeni, Demat, Shallcross, Westmead, Riverhorse Valley, Stanger, Eshowe, Howick, Marianhill, Empangeni, Greytown, Harding, and various other towns.

Muslim businesses suffered great losses and the communities were visibly hard hit with the loss and emotional toll of the riots. Darul Ihsan Ulama conducted short programmes at certain masjids giving the people of these towns hope and encouragement. The communities appreciated and acknowledged the gesture and thanked the Ulama for their visit and support. A Business Restart fund was also set up and actioned to help

businesses with restarting were possible Approximately 50  
businesses were assisted in this respect.







# DARUL IHSAN

## HUMANITARIAN CENTRE

GUIDANCE • UBUNTU • EMPOWERMENT

## ISLAMIC

- Learn The Deen
- Teach The Deen
- Jumuah Roster
- Bookshop
- Basic Islam
- Library & Research Facility
- GUIDELINE (Counselling)
- Literature Collection
- Al Ihsan Micro Library
- Marriage Registration
- Sadaqah Jariyah Projects
- Taqwa School of Excellence
- Muslim Marriages Tribunal (MMT)
- Drug Awareness Drive (DAD)
- Siyaphambili Madrasah
- Enewsletters, Social Media Posts
- Azmatu-Ahlil-Bayt-was-Sahaba



## HUMANITARIAN

- Feed a Pupil
- Feed a Patient
- Feed The Needy
- Al Ihsan Clinic
- Build a Home
- Al Ihsan Relief (AIR)
- Enable the Disabled
- Bursary Fund (DIBF)
- Operation H2O
- Sponsor a Blanket
- Sponsor a Kajoor Pack
- Al Ihsan Boreholes
- House & Home Improvement
- Al Ihsan Fashion & Design Course
- Uniforms & Stationery
- Al Ihsan Garden Patch
- Al Ihsan Caregiver Course





أَهْلًا وَسَهْلًا  
WELCOME

## About Darul Ihsan

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre provides education, guidance, social, empowerment and welfare services to the community. In providing this service, we adopt a holistic approach, that gives due importance to basic needs as well as human rights and dignity of those that we serve.

## Founding Philosophy

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre is a multi-purpose, humanitarian-services providing organisation. 'Ihsan' means compassion towards mankind and to act with excellence. The Centre was established in the year 2000 with the primary objective of serving humanity and alleviating poverty and hardship locally and abroad. Since its inception, it has developed and established many humanitarian projects and provides a variety of free services to the community.

## Key Objectives

One of the key objectives of the Centre is to promote a better understanding of humanity and peace, thereby serving as a bridge-builder between faiths and communities. Through guidance, Ubuntu and empowerment, the organisation hopes to train and develop the youth to become torch bearers of hope, peace and compassion to humanity.

