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"Only Riot Repairs - Liquor Stores" (Star, 20/2/78)

The only repairs so far done to public buildings damaged during the June 1976 riots have been to liquor outlets, a West Rand Administration Board spokesman said today.

The board had repaired only these facilities of the more than 80 buildings damaged during the unrest because they were income-making, the spokesman said.

Thirteen beerhalls, two bar lounges and seven bottle stores have so far been repaired.

During the riots 25 office complexes were wrecked along with 22 bottlestores, 28 beerhalls and eight lounges.

Altogether an estimated R7-million was originally claimed by the board in insurance. It also claimed it was losing up to R2-million a month through the loss of the liquor facilities.

The spokesman said the board's property in Soweto was suffering from an "ongoing process of vandalism".

He appealed to Sowetans to prevent this damage because of its cost to the community itself.

The liquor outlets were a major target for rioters during the 1976 unrest. More than half the income for running Soweto and other West Rand townships came from these outlets.