MANGAUNG
AT THE HEART OF IT ALL

CENTLEC
Reg No. 2003/011612/30

30 Rhodes Avenue
Oranjesig
Bloemfontein
9301
www.centlec.co.za
@Centlec @centlecutility

OFFICE OF THE CEO

Communications and Marketing

Contact Person : T. E. Leba	**Date:** 07 October 2026
E-mail: tseliso.leba@centlec.co.za	**Tel:** 051 409 2228 **Fax**: 051 xxxxxxx
Our Ref. CENTLEC Welcomes Arrest of Three Men Following Cable Theft Incidents	**Your Ref.:**

CENTLEC WELCOMES ARREST OF THREE MEN FOLLOWING CABLE THEFT INCIDENTS

CENTLEC welcomes the arrest of three men in connection with separate incidents involving the theft, tampering with and vandalism of essential infrastructure.

On 6 October 2026, members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) received a tip-off from a community member regarding a male suspect who was allegedly in possession of a plastic bag containing electrical cable.

Following the information received, Navalsig SAPS pursued a lead to WF Scrap Metals, a scrap metal business situated in Noordhoek. The suspect was positively identified through a copy of his driver's licence, which he had provided to the cashier during the transaction, as well as CCTV footage captured on the premises.

The cable, estimated to be worth R16,500, was positively identified as CENTLEC property. It was confiscated by the police and processed as an exhibit.

The suspect remains in police custody and is facing charges relating to theft, vandalism and tampering with essential infrastructure. Further investigations are underway to establish whether he may be linked to other incidents involving the theft of or tampering with essential infrastructure.

In a separate incident on the 6th of September 2026 at approximately 15h00, the CENTLEC Control Room received a report from the Botshabelo Neighbourhood Watch regarding two suspects who had allegedly been apprehended by community members while cutting and removing copper cable belonging to the street-lighting infrastructure along Hospital Road, in Botshabelo.

The Botshabelo Neighbourhood Watch members successfully apprehended the suspects and immediately alerted the SAPS, who swiftly responded and arrested both suspects at the scene.

Directors: MJ Ntshudisane (**Chairperson**), DR Barlow (**Deputy Chairperson**), GP Malaza (**NED**), AB Godongwana (**NED**), ED Markus (**NED**), ZC Gcwili (**NED**), MS Sekoboto (**CEO**), ZSN Williams (**CFO**), KC Tsitsi (**Company Secretary**)

During the investigation, the suspects allegedly indicated that they had been digging for the cable since the morning. They reportedly excavated a hole next to a streetlight pole and subsequently pulled the cable from the ground.

An inspection of the scene established that a 16 mm x 4-core copper cable had been pulled from inside the streetlight pole, resulting in damage to and tampering with the street-lighting infrastructure.

During the arrests, the 16 mm x 4-core copper cable, estimated to be worth R11,000, was recovered and positively identified as CENTLEC property. Several tools allegedly used in the commission of the crime, including a pair of scissors, saw, knife and side cutter, were also recovered at the scene.

Both suspects remain in police custody and are facing charges relating to theft, vandalism and tampering of essential infrastructure.

CENTLEC appreciates the efforts of the Mangaung community, the Botshabelo Neighbourhood Watch, the SAPS and CENTLEC employees who continue to play an important role in combating the scourge of cable theft and infrastructure vandalism.

Members of the public are urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour involving electrical infrastructure to the nearest police station or CENTLEC Security.

Members of the public can contact CENTLEC Security on 051 409 2239 or submit an anonymous tip-off via WhatsApp on 069 726 0827.

-End-

Tseliso Leba Spokesperson (Acting)
CENTLEC (SOC) Ltd
051 409 2228 / tseliso.leba@centlec.co.za