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Our Ref.: Media Statement: One Male Suspect Declared Dead At The Scene Following Alleged Cable Theft And Vandalism Of Essential Infrastructure In Phase 6, Bloemfontein.	**Your Ref.:**

MEDIA STATEMENT: ONE MALE SUSPECT DECLARED DEAD AT THE SCENE FOLLOWING ALLEGED CABLE THEFT AND VANDALISM OF ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN PHASE 6, BLOEMFONTEIN.

For immediate release

CENTLEC (SOC) Ltd expresses deep concern over fatalities caused by electricity, following fatal attempts at cable theft in Phase 6 Mangaung.

Police have confirmed that one male suspect was declared dead at the scene following an incident linked to the alleged theft and vandalism of electrical infrastructure in the Phase 6 area. In the early hours of the morning, at approximately 01h50, the South African police services and Armed Response received a tip-off regarding individuals allegedly stealing overhead electrical lines in Phase 6. CENTLEC security services and SAPS responded immediately and proceeded to the scene to investigate. Upon arrival, officers reportedly encountered two suspects believed to be involved in the theft of overhead line infrastructure. During the incident, one male suspect was declared dead at the scene due to electrocution. Further investigation are still ongoing.

The second suspect fled the scene before police could apprehend him and remains at large. During a search of the area, police recovered a shovel and a pair of gloves believed to have been used in the commission of the crime. The items were seized and will form part of the ongoing investigation.

CENTLEC (SOC) Ltd strongly condemns acts of cable theft and vandalism of electricity infrastructure, which continue to pose a serious threat to the stability of electricity supply in Mangaung. These criminal activities not only disrupt power supply to homes, businesses and essential services, but also place lives at risk and cost the utility millions of rands in repairs and replacement of infrastructure.

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

The Entity reiterates that tampering with electrical infrastructure is extremely dangerous and is a criminal offense that can lead to 15-30 years' imprisonment if found guilty. CENTLEC continues to work closely with law enforcement agencies to combat electricity-related crimes and protect critical infrastructure. Members of the public are urged to report any suspicious activities related to electricity infrastructure to the nearest police station or through CENTLEC's reporting channels.

Investigations into the incident are ongoing, and authorities are working to identify and locate the suspect who fled the scene.

Issued by Communications and Marketing.

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