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OFFICE OF THE CEO

Communications & Marketing

8 SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR CABLE THEFT AND MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY:

CENTLEC's efforts of fighting cable theft, and vandalism of valuable infrastructure is bearing the desired fruit. This is after five suspects were arrested for copper cable theft at Quaggafontein on the 17th of February 2022 during the joint operation by CENTLEC Security team and the Langenhoven Park Community Policing Forum.

CENTLEC Security Control had earlier on received a request from the main control office for assistance at Quaggafontein on the possibility of an ongoing cable theft after an electricity trip was recorded. A team of investigators were dispatched to the area and on arrival, they found five (5) suspects with stolen cables. With the help of the latest sophisticated technology, the sixth suspect was discovered where he was hiding and arrested.

The suspects are currently under police custody and are facing charges including theft and damage to property (Case Number: 81/21/2022). The estimated loss is R960 000. During the arrest, cell phones and other items which could be useful for successful prosecution of the suspects were confiscated.

In another incident, two (2) suspects were apprehended by CENTLEC Security personnel while patrolling the line between Gutsche and De Wet line, on the 18th of February 2022. The suspects are believed to be part of a syndicate targeting the Gottschee – De Wet line. After searching the suspects, the Security team confiscated their cellphones and discovered that three (3) more suspects were on route to join their fellow suspects. A sting operation was set up to capture three other suspects.

A case (CAS 230/2/2022) of theft and malicious damage to property has been opened at Kagisanong Police Station. Two suspects are currently under police custody, while other three (3) are still at large.

Between January 2022 and February 2022, an estimated 200 meters cable was stolen at Gutsche 335 to De-wet DC. The cable, excluding labour and other material, worth more than R 100 000, 00. Cable theft is a major contributing factor to the outages we experience daily within Mangaung Metropolitan area. We are glad that our strategy which includes increasing security patrols in all identified hotspot areas, and our partnership with local communities especially Community Policing Forums such as Langenhoven Park Policing Forum is bearing fruit.

We urge the community to report acts of theft, vandalism of electricity infrastructure and illegal connections to the nearest police or contact CENTLEC at (051) 409 2218 (Fraud hotline); WhatsApp: 064 616 5574 or email fraudandcorruption@centlec.co.za.

Issued by Communications and Marketing.

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