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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. Leba	**Date** 13 April 2026
E-mail: tseliso.leba@centlec.co.za	**Tel:** 051 409 2228 **Fax**: 051 xxxxxxx
Our Ref.: Media Statement: Centlec Welcomes The 20-Year Sentence for Cable Theft and Vandalism of Valuable Infrastructure	**Your Ref.:**

MEDIA STATEMENT: CENTLEC WELCOMES THE 20-YEAR SENTENCE FOR CABLE THEFT AND VANDALISM OF VALUABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

For immediate release.

CENTLEC (SOC) Ltd welcomes the sentencing and the conviction of a 21-year-old Braam Bothma to 20 years' direct imprisonment on charges relating to theft, damage and vandalism of infrastructure.

On Monday, 13 April 2026, the Bloemfontein Regional Court handed down a firm judgment in favour of CENTLEC. Bothma was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, on all counts and was also declared unfit to possess a firearm.

The charges stem from multiple incidents between 2022 and 2025 in the Noordhoek area, Bloemfontein, where the accused was apprehended while cutting and stealing electrical and telecommunications cables belonging to CENTLEC and Telkom. These criminal acts disrupted critical services, including electricity supply and communication networks, directly impacting communities and businesses.

The court emphasized the impact of infrastructure vandalism and theft which remain a serious and a growing concern in South Africa. Cable theft and vandalism of essential infrastructure place an immense strain on service delivery and contribute towards the

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)

increased operational costs for CENTLEC, which severely undermines our mandate to provide sustainable and reliable electricity supply.

As CENTLEC, we strongly condemn all acts of economic sabotage and the destruction of essential infrastructure. The company remains committed to working closely with law enforcement agencies and communities to safeguard critical infrastructure and ensure uninterrupted delivery of the services.

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Issued by Communications and Marketing

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