

30 Rhodes Avenue Oranjesig Bloemfontein 9301

www.centlec.co.za

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OFFICE OF THE CEO *Communications & Marketing*

Contact Person: L. Mamatu	Date : 28 May 2024
E-mail: lele.mamatu@centlec.co.za	Tel: 051 409 2718 Fax : 051 xxxxxxxx
Our Ref.: Media Statement: Centlec Welcomes The Arrest Of One Of Its Employees On Charges Of Theft And Vandalism Of Valuable Infrastructure	Your Ref.:

MEDIA STATEMENT: CENTLEC WELCOMES THE ARREST OF ONE OF ITS EMPLOYEES ON CHARGES OF THEFT AND VANDALISM OF VALUABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

CENTLEC official based in Phillipolis, is set to appear before the Bloemfontein Magistrate court facing charges relating to cable theft and tampering of essential infrastructure.

On the 27th of May 2024, the South African Police Services, Heidedal, received a tip off from members of the community that one of CENTLEC employees by the name of Ismael Adams is intending to sell a stolen copper cable at Lynis Scrap Yard in Bloemfontein. The SAPS members, working together with the k9 unit, conducted an intelligence driven operation near Lynis Scrap yard where the two suspects were intending to sell the copper cable.

Adams (38), and his co-accused who also happen to be his neighbour, Mr. Japie du Toit, were found in possession of copper cable to the value of R35 000. A case of theft, tampering and vandalism of valuable infrastructure was opened at Heidedal police station. Both perpetrators are currently detained at the Heidedal police.

Adams and his co-accused are expected to appear in the Bloemfontein Magistrate's Court later on during the week.

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Tampering, electricity theft and vandalism of valuable infrastructure remain a very

serious crime in South Africa and carries a harsh sentence upon those found guilty. In

terms of section 3 of the Criminal Matters Amendment Act, any person found guilty of

essential infrastructure crime such as cable theft, shall be liable on conviction to a

period of imprisonment up to 30 years.

Illegal connections, theft and vandalism of electricity infrastructure can be reported to

the nearest police station or to the CENTLEC fraud hot line at (051) 412 2239 or

WhatsApp: 064 616 5574 or email fraudandcorruption@centlec.co.za.

Issued by Communications and Marketing.

Lele Mamatu

CENTLEC Spokesperson

Tel: 051- 412 2718

lele.mamatu@centlec.co.za