From: Relationship Management
To: Media
Date: 27 October 2015
Re: Press Release

Senior City Power official busted for cable theft

Working with law enforcement agents, City Power has dealt a fatal blow against cable theft following the arrest of a senior member of staff who was found in possession of four cable drum rolls, each valued at approximately R350 000.

The official’s identity cannot be disclosed at this stage until he appears before the South Gauteng High Court on charges of cable theft and possession of stolen property.

The Hawks, the South African Police Services and City Power are investigating further to establish whether he was working with any syndicates responsible for numerous spates of cable theft around Johannesburg.

Sicelo Xulu, Managing Director of City Power, says he is encouraged by this breakthrough as it demonstrates the utility’s unwavering commitment to rid itself of corrupt practices.

"No one is above reproach in the fight against corruption and cable theft, including City Power employees. We need to lead by example and reaffirm our zero tolerance for corrupt practices. The arrest of this official is a culmination of months of painstaking work by the police and our officials, and we are pleased with this breakthrough as it further cripples the efforts of these syndicates and spares the residents of Johannesburg a spate of unplanned power cuts and millions in lost revenue," says Xulu.

Xulu thanked the Hawks and the SAPS for the sterling work they have done, and once again appealed to members of the community to continue to work with City Power and law enforcement agencies to report suspected incidents of cable theft.

Cable theft is conservatively estimated to cost the South African economy about R5 billion a year directly and indirectly.

Xulu says besides the cost of replacing the infrastructure and damaged equipment, cable theft contributes to increased electricity tariffs and prices for ordinary South Africans.

The industry has lamented the scourge of cable theft and has collectively lobbied government to classify cable theft as an act of economic sabotage due to the debilitating impact of cable theft on the economy.
Earlier this year, government tabled a Criminal Matters Amendment Bill 2015 which seeks to impose more stringent sentences to suspects convicted of cable theft.

Xulu commented: “We are encouraged by the gravity and urgency with which government is taking this issue, and we hope that the amendments to the bill will be fast-tracked to bring the perpetrators of cable theft and the syndicates behind them to book. We are confident that the imposition of maximum sentences will serve as deterrence to those who selfishly regard our infrastructure as vulnerable prey and an easy source of revenue.”

Ends

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