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City Power Johannesburg

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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SIX SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR CABLE THEFT

MMC for Environment Infrastructure Services Department Mr Michael Sun has welcomed the arrest of six suspects for Cable theft this morning.

The suspects, that include four(4) Zimbabweans and two South Africans, had already dug up trenches to access the cables along Cypress road, in Zonnehoeve, Roodepoort when security pounced after a tip off from the community.

They told the security they were contractors doing a job for City Power.

Upon interrogation the suspects failed to produce job cards nor City Power ID cards needed.

The suspects then attempted to bribe the security officers with about R5 000, which the security duly refused.

Three suspects fled the scene and three were immediately arrested and taken to Honeydew police station where they were charged with damage to, and tampering with, essential infrastructure, bribery, among other crimes.

A vehicle used by suspects in commission of the crime was impounded and tools that include two pick-axes, 4 shovels and a hacksaw were found at the scene and handed over to the police.

The suspects had already dug about 10 meters of a trench during the arrest and 3 copper cables were exposed and ready to be spiked, cut and stolen.

The three suspects who fled the scene were later arrested along Peter road and taken to Honeydew police station.

City Power Acting CEO Ms Tshifularo Mashava praised the collaborative work by the community, the neighbourhood watch, and City Power security.

"The issue of cable theft is one of the major contributing factors to the outages we deal with daily across of the City of Johannesburg.

"We are glad that our security strategy which includes increasing security patrols in the hotspot areas, and partnering with local communities, especially the neighbourhood watch and community policing forums, is bearing fruits. We will intensify the fight against cable theft and vandalism, and our focus will include conducting operations at the scrapyards to ensure that those who buy these stolen material are punished," said Ms Mashava, Acting CEO.

City Power has seen several suspects arrested in recent days for Cable theft, with the communities playing a central role in the arrests.

City Power spend millions of rand to repair and replace stolen cables and the associated infrastructure.

EISD MMC Mr Sun has given City Power 6 months to reduce cable theft by at least 20%.

ENDS

Issued by City Power

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