

OFFICE OF THE CEO
Communications & Marketing

Contact Person: L. Mamatu	Date: 25 February 2024
E-mail: lele.mamatu@centlec.co.za	Tel: 051 409 2718 Fax: 051 xxxxxxxx
Our Ref.: Media Statement: Centlec Welcomes The Conviction And Sentence Handed Down By The Bloemfontein Magistrate Court Upon Mr Molefe.	Your Ref.:

MEDIA STATEMENT: CENTLEC WELCOMES THE CONVICTION AND SENTENCE HANDED DOWN BY THE BLOEMFONTEIN MAGISTRATE COURT UPON MR MOLEFE.

CENTLEC (SOC) Ltd welcomes the conviction and the sentence handed down by the Bloemfontein Magistrate Court upon the certain Mr E. M. Sello.

On the 23rd of August 2023, while doing routine patrols, the ADT Security personnel notice a suspicious man carrying a bag. He then approached him and requested that he search his bag. Inside the bag the ADT personnel found a copper cable estimated at a value of R100 000-00. The cable was later identified positively as CENTLEC's property. A hacksaw, believed to be used in the cutting of the copper cable, was also found in his possession. The suspect was then arrested and charged with theft, destruction, and vandalism of valuable infrastructure.

The accused appeared before the Bloemfontein Magistrate Court on the 22nd of February 2024 where he pleaded guilty to all charges. He was found guilty on all charges and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

We are pleased with the successful conviction and sentencing of the accused, and our view is that the hefty sentence meted out by the Bloemfontein Magistrate Court will send out a strong message to those who continue to damage essential infrastructure.

We would also like to thank the ADT Security Company for the job well done. It is evident that our collaboration with all community based organizations including the SAPS and Security Companies in our area of supply is producing positive results.

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