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Our Ref.: Centlec Welcomes the Arrest of Three (3) Suspected Criminals For Theft And Vandalism Of Centlec Infrastructure	Your Ref.:

MEDIA STATEMENT: CENTLEC WELCOMES THE ARREST OF THREE (3) SUSPECTED CRIMINALS FOR THEFT AND VANDALISM OF CENTLEC INFRASTRUCTURE

CENTLEC (SOC) Ltd welcomes the arrest of three persons found in possession of stolen copper cable in the East End, Bloemfontein. On the 26th of September 2023, at around 20H30 in the evening, CENTLEC Security were alerted about the positive arrest of three suspected criminals by the Community Neighborhood Watch in East End, Bloemfontein who were in possession of suspected stolen copper cable.

On arrival at the scene, CENTLEC Security and officials positively confirmed and identified copper cable as one used mainly on the streetlights and property of CENTLEC.

The stolen cable is linked to an ongoing theft of street light cables in the M10 road which saw motorists, businesses and residents left in the dark and without enough area lighting, sparking an increase in cases of crime in the area.

The suspects, all males, were arrested and are detained at Heidedal Police station. They are expected to appear before the Bloemfontein Magistrate court today, 27th of September 2023, on charges relating to the contravention of the Criminal Matters Act of 2015 and vandalism of valuable infrastructure which is a serious criminal offence in South Africa.

The ongoing collaboration between Centlec and various community fighting organizations continue to bear positive results, however, cable theft still poses a significant challenge to the entity and the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality.

Members of the public are advised that tampering, electricity theft and vandalism of valuable infrastructure remain a serious crime in South Africa and carries a harsh sentence upon those found guilty.

We would like to thank the public, including the community crime fighting organizations around the City for the work well done and giving us tip-offs whenever these kinds of

incidents are to happen. Fighting crime is a collaborative effort between the community, police and CENTLEC.

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) 409 2218/ 2245 or WhatsApp: 064 616 5574 or email fraudandcorruption@centlec.co.za.

Issued by Communications and Marketing.

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