

SOL PLAATJE MUNICIPALITY



COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media Houses
Embargo: No (For immediate release)
Date: Tuesday, 14 November 2023

RE: MINI-SUBSTATIONS VANDALISM AND THEFT

The Sol Plaatje Municipality is noting with grave concern the heightened vandalism and theft from key mini-substations experienced in the recent while and over the past weekend. Three mini-substations were vandalised and critical components stolen from one of them, in citing incidents of the past weekend.

There are also indications emanating from these incidents of a crime syndicate's involvement, with operatives highly knowledgeable in the electrical sector.

The vandalism and theft carried out at the MacDoughall Street mini-substation in the early hours of Sunday morning, serves to confirm the organised crime factor and possibility of saboteurs seeking to spark mayhem. Members of SAPS handed over the site amid having conducted a forensic data collection as part of their investigations. We are hoping to temporarily restore power today or by tomorrow whilst working on returning it to full functionality.

The repair costs have been exponential and our future cause of action aimed at thwarting this abnormally and safeguarding our mini-substations, includes amongst other measures;

> heightened patrolling, armed response and introduction of certain technologies. This in considering that we have had an incident of our security officers being shot at.

A high-level team in collaboration with SAPS and other relevant stakeholders will meet on Thursday, 16 November 2023, to map out tangible joint efforts in ensuring we win the battle against such menacing criminality.

We are appealing to residents and members of the public to report suspicious activities around our mini-substations to 053-8306 661 / 053-8306 111 and 10111.

Issued By: Sol Plaatje Municipality - Communications Unit

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