



MEDIA STATEMENT

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'IZINYOKA' DEPRIVE RESIDENTS OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Blouberg Municipality commends efforts of Ward 01 residents in protecting their basic service resources. Provision of electricity experienced frequent, irregular disruptions as reported in the early hours of Thursday the 5th June 2014 at Raweshi, Lewaneng and Cracouw villages.

We dispatched our electrical support team for inspection and they discovered that up to 400m of electrical cables (UV) were missing with more than 20 households left in the dark.

It all started at Cracouw village where residents realized that the more they hide criminals is the more they become victims themselves. They came out in numbers looking for the izinyoka who made their food to rot as fridges went off; who forced their kids to bath in cold water, disrupting their proper schooling orientation and moreover, made their lives miserable by imposing darkness on them.

Their search was not long when they found an unknown man at the bus stop allegedly carrying a bag that contained burnt electrical cables. Cell phones and clothing, purportedly stolen the previous night in Lewaneng village, were also found in his possession. He tried to run away but being unfamiliar with the area made him run direct into the hands of Lewaneng residents, who caught and handed him over to Matlala Police. The suspect was discovered to be from Greenside in Polokwane and was brought to the area by his accomplice who originates from Lewaneng. The police are looking for the second suspect who is still at large.

Blouberg Municipality discourage residents from taking law into their own hands but welcome community involvement in assisting police to wipe out all acts of crime in their areas.

Municipal Manager Thoka Kgoale said: "We continually incur losses due to cable theft and I

believe that money used for replacing cables can be channeled to other vital service needs in our communities".

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